

Bristol BLENHEIM

The Journal of the Blenheim Society

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| <p><u>Abbreviations for rank:</u></p> <p>G/Cpt Group Captain W/Cdr Wing Commander Sq/Ldr Squadron Leader F/Lt Flight Lieutenant F/O Flying Officer P/O Pilot Officer NCOs Non Commissioned Officers W/O Warrant Officer F/Sgt Flight Sergeant Sgt Sergeant Cpl Corporal</p> | <p><u>Other Ranks</u></p> <p>LAC Leading Aircraftsman AC1 Aircraftsman 1st Class AC2 Aircraftsman 2nd Class</p> <p><u>Other abbreviations</u></p> <p>CO Commanding Officer WOp/AG Wireless operator/Air gunner Obs Observer (navigator) OTU Operation Training Unit Kia Killed in Action</p> <p><i>Other less frequently used abbreviations are listed at end</i></p> | <p><u>Notes & Search Words:</u></p> <p>Main categories in this column are: People Places Squadrons Dates Bristol Blenheim (BB) Serial numbers</p> <p>For ease of search & consistency: <u>Dates</u> are written as: dd/mm/yyyy or (if mth only): mm/yyyy <u>Squadrons</u> listed as: 18Sq, 21Sq, etc <u>Ref to journals:</u> Issue 56, page 4 = 56/04</p> |
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Contact details (email, phone, address) given in the journal are not shown here. To respond to any requests for information please use the 'Contact Us' page of the website

GW: this refers to additional information from Graham Warner's book
'*The Bristol Blenheim – A complete History*'

'Articles' focus mainly on first-hand experiences & accounts of research

| Issue 39: December 2000 | | | | | |
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| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
| Hugh George, WC, DFC | 1-2 | Obit | William Hubert (Hugh) George, Wing Commander, DFC | | With his wife Betty & Graham Warner, Hugh founded the Blenheim Society. Comments about his life & character. £1,950 in his memory raised for RAF Benevolent Fund. Thank you letter from Betty George refers to post-WWII neglect of BB squadrons/crew. Pics: Hugh George; Hugh & Ron Scott, Shuttleworth, 05/2000 |
| | 2 | Report | Chairman's Comments | Andrew Pierce | Blenheims longest journey so far - to Denmark. £7,000 raised in Grand Flying Draw. Sad loss of Hugh George. Society thriving with more events attended. |
| 2 Group Squadrons | 2 | | 2 Group Blenheim Squadrons | Mike Henry | 2 squadrons omitted from list in 38/11 which was taken from Leslie Hunt's ' <i>Short History of 2 Group RAF</i> '. Missing were: 105Sq 'Hereford', GB, 06/1940 226Sq, MQ, 05/1941, also 614Sq 'County of Glamorgan' R AuxAF, LJ, 08/1942 (briefly). Thanks to Sir Ivor Broom for pointing out error. |
| | 2 | | | Andrew Pierce | Thanks to Joan Scrivener of West 4 Printers for help with this issue. Pic: cat & box |
| | 3 | Report | The Brisley Memorial | David Haines | David, Chairman of Brisley Memorial Committee, reports on the Remembrance Service & Unveiling & Dedication of Brisley Memorial on 18/06/2000 for P/O John Graham (21yrs), Sgt Michael Beaufoy (19) & Sgt Leslie Harrowell (22) of 114Sq, West Raynham. On raid to Essen engine failed & crashed in Brisley village pond. 200 attended incl reps from ACA, RAFA, Blen Society, RBL, ATC, RAF Marham, 114Sq (Guard of Honour), RAF Northolt (buglers, Pipe Major Russell). Sq/Ldr Rev Nick Heron (Chaplain RAF Marham) & Rev Paul Inman conducted service & memorial unveiled by Sir Ivor Broom. 3 low fly-passes by the Blenheim |

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| | | | | | (pilot John Romain). Thanks to community & others for overwhelming support, |
| | 3 | Report | Season 2000 | | Ron Hicks at Cosford, Shoreham & Plymouth. No Vraux trip with Tony Tranter due to low numbers, but they came over to Shuttleworth show. Other shows at Rougham, Duxford, Shoreham, Newark and North Weald. Thanks to all helpers |
| | 3 | Data | Future Events | | Dates and venues of airshows for 2001 |
| | 4 | Report | Butterfly bombs – 60 years on | Mike Henry | Addendum to 38/9 on SD2 anti-personnel bombs on RAF Wattisham in 1940. MH to Charlton television for filming of programme on Bomb Disposal (Channel 4, 03/2000) directed by Geoff Smith who asked MH questions about 10/1940 raid. MH describes the three shots taken of him. |
| | 4 | Report | Oulton | 'Dinty' Moore | Oulton home to BB 114Sq (08/1940); 18Sq (01/04/1941);139Sq (07/1941) then 88Sq (Bostons), 21Sq (Venturas) then Fortresses & Liberators of 100 Group. Hold commemorative events incl, in 1994, a Book of Remembrance in Blickling Church, Oulton Street memorial & oak tree @ airfield. In 2000 six tapestry kneelers dedicated to life of parish. One depicts 18Sq BB MkIV & Dinty (ex WOp/AG 18Sq) advised on design, colour, etc. In 15 weeks in 1941 18Sq lost 14 BBs and only one of 42 aircrew survived. Pic of kneeler: 'Blenheim Mk IV Oulton 1941' |
| | 5 | Report | From the Treasurer's Pen: New plugs for old | Ron Scott | Blenheim needs new plugs & ARC asked if Blenheim Soc can pay. Total cost £520 for 36 authentic plugs for 2 Bristol Mercury engines (9 cylinders each; 2 plugs/cylinder). Ian Carter suggested old unserviceable plugs be offered for sale to Soc members at £15 each with certificate of authenticity signed by Graham Warner & Sir Ivor Broom. Let Ron know if interested. |
| | 5 | | Vraux 2001 | | Detail of proposed trip to Vraux from 12/07/2001 – 16/07/2001. Inclusive cost ~ £210, incl Bastille Day celebrations & visits to AAF museum, Ypres, etc. Let Tony Tranter know if interested. |
| | 5 | Review | Review | | Video of Duxford 'Battle of Britain' Show on 09-10/09/2000. Excellent with good land & air footage of BB. Price £12.99. |
| | 5 | Report | Grand Flying Draw | | Named winners: J Selvy, Mrs Mackie, Mr Sheridan, J Morley & C Hancock. £7,000 raised. Should Concorde not fly a suitable replacement has been arranged. |
| | 6-7 | Pics | Were you there? | | Duxford Battle of Britain Airshow, 09-10/09/2000. Eight pics of the event & Blenheim Soc marquee/members (no a/c shown). Weather perfect! |
| 82 Squadron | 8 | Report | Watton Reunion | John Smith ('Smudge') | Smudge attended last Watton reunion on 13/08/2000, the 60 th anniversary of 82Sq raid on Aalborg, Denmark when all but one a/c shot down & 20 lives lost & buried in Vadum cemetery. Raid well documented by Ole Ronnest. On 04/05/2000 BB flew to Aalborg (painted as R3821 UX-N, a BB lost on 13/08/1940, based on picture by Don MacFarlane) to remember lost crew & celebrate 55 th anniversary of Danish liberation. Julian Horn & Ken Godfrey organise Watton reunion & informative museum on 1 st floor old officer's mess, which includes clock from R3821 which involved in |

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| | | | | | Battle on Britain on 07/08/1940. Many relatives at reunion, incl from US & Canada & air/ground crews from 82Sq & 21Sq at Watton & Aalborg. 300 attended remembrance service at Air Cadet's glider hangar & BB fly-past by John Romain. Silver Blenheim cups presented annually to pupils at 4 schools in Watton area. |
| 2461 (Sawston) Squadron Air Training Corps | 9-10 | Report | Air Cadets – the Next Generation | | 2461Sq ATC 'adopted' by Blenheim Society so attended 2000 Presentation evening. John Milne (ex 19Sq, Duxford, 1940) spoke & made presentations. Also present Sq President Ted Inman (Director IWM Duxford), CO F/Lt Chris Lee (RAFVR(T)) & former Sq/Ldr Tom Little (who, as Intelligence Officer at RAF Wyton on 03/09/1939, briefed BB crews who undertook 1 st raid of WWII). His son, Andrew Little, member of 2461Sq staff & both Blen Soc members. List of awards & trophy winners (all cadets): Matt Willing, Stephie Barker, Carly Freestone, Cherie Lee-McCloud, Elliot Carr, Cadet WO Chris Brown, F/Sgt Emma Levy, & Cpl Tom Ashard (who are very helpful to Blen Soc). Pics: Cpl Ashard receiving award from John Milne; 2461Sq at Award Ceremony incl Andrew Pierce, CO F/Lt Crish Lees & Sq/Ldr Tom Little. |
| | 10 | Review | For Your Bookshelf? <i>'The Battle'</i> by Richard Overy | Mike Henry | Overy's (Prof of Modern History at King's College) booklet covers summer 1940 & run-up to Battle of Britain from political perspective, inexperience of many senior RAF officers (except ACM Dowling), etc. Excellent maps & tables. Very interest concise & little-known background. Penguin Book Ltd, £4.99 |
| | 10 | Review | <i>'Finnish Air Force Bomber Squadron 42'</i> by Matti Hamalainen | Mike Henry | In Finnish & English with lots of high quality photographs, many of BB Mk1, crews and aerial shots. Well indexed with chapter heading "Winter War 1939-40", 'Talvisota 1939-40', 'Continuation War 1941-44', 'Jatkosota 1941-44'. Photo of BB MKIV BL-200 awaiting restoration at Central-Finland Aviation Museum 1944. Printed in Finland by Tammer-Paino Oy, Tampere, 2000. £19.95 |
| | 11 | Report | Operating the Blenheim | Graham Warner | BB (in 1940 camouflage & marking) now stands alongside Spitfire & Hurricane (& downed Messerschmitt) in permanent Battle of Britain exhibition at IWM Duxford (Hangar 4) where it returns after each flight to be viewed by 425,000 annual visitors. Mention of Aalborg & Watton (see 08/39). GW sent 5-page feature of event in Danish with pics. R3821 landed Watton at 12.23 on 13/08/2000 – 60yrs to minute of original R3821 crash over Aalborg when all 11 82Sq BBs shot down, 20 aircrew killed and 13 became POWs (many injured). Recommends Watton Museum of 21Sq & 82Sq. BB also to Jersey, Cosford (via Brisley for fly-past at memorial for 114Sq BB crew who crashed there), Newtonards, Hawarden, Flying Legends at Duxford, East Fortune, the IAT at Cottesmore, Wyton, Lowestoft, Norwich & Sleaford. GW was 'observer' in flypast over Whitehall Pageant for 100 th Birthday of Queen Mother. BB then to displays at Elvington & (on 2-3/09/2000) at Shoreham, Tangmere, Shepway before B of |

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| | | | | | B Display at Duxford (with 21 Spitfires & 3 Hurricanes), Guernsey and Biggin Hill. Busiest year yet. Thanks to Anna McDowell for arranging, John Romain & crew (esp Smudge, Colin & Barry). Support of Blen Society vital & thanks to Andrew Pierce, Ron Scott, Derek Baden, Mick Ford, Freddie Brown, Kevin Rowley, Betty George & Liz Pierce. BB no longer the 'forgotten bomber'! |
| | 11 | Pic | | | Pic: leaflet advertising 'Veterans Advice Unit' |
| No 2 MT Squadron | 12 | Wanted | Can U Help? | Cpl Matthew Cole | Historian to No 2 MT Sq requests photos of Squadrons being moved by No 2 MT Sq during WWII. Contact at RAF Stafford, ST18 0AQ |
| Sgt Maurice German (1282510) 14Sq, Egypt | 12 | Wanted | | Ms Christine Dean | In 05/1940 Christine's uncle Sgt Maurice German flew in BB of 14Sq over Egypt with Australian Sgt John Bossworth & Leslie Farrow after Bossworth's previous Obs KIA. On (or about) 01/08/1942 Maurice was rear gunner with P/O Ellis & Sgt Langmaid when a/c shot & crew jumped. In 1945 P/O Ellis told family that Maurice last to jump & foot cut by door, taken with other crew to Fuka hospital (where visitors denied). He may then have been transferred to hospital ship (later torpedoed) or PoW at Dulag Luft. Any info please. Christine Hon. Keeper at Museum in Otley. <i>GW: 01/08/1942, Z9614, 14Sq, shot down nr Fuka. P/O A Ellis, Sgt H Langmaid & Sgt M German injured & captured. Maurice German believed lost when Italian ship taking him to Europe was sunk</i> |
| F/Sgt Simon J Williams, 21Sq | 12 | Wanted | | Tony Popham | Tony's uncle, F/Sgt Simon Williams, 21Sq, KIA 21/10/1941 over the sea. 'Bomber Command Bombing Losses 1941' reports F/Sgt Williams & one other killed but two crew survived. Any further info welcome. <i>GW: 21/10/1941, V5580, 21Sq, FTR, struck sea & ditched off Terschelling; F/Lt F Powles DFC, Sgt J Life & F/Sgt S Williams KIA & buried @ Sage.</i> |
| 18 Squadron, Malta | 12 | Wanted | | Sean Morrison | Information about 18Sq, Malta, 10/1941 to 01/1942. Recent underwater survey located 7 a/c, one a BB (Z7858-M). All crew survived & Sean wants to trace Squadron members. <u>Aircrew:</u> W/Cdr DC Smythe GM DSO, F/Lt James (posted from 226Sq), F/Os Anthony Selwyn Aldridge DFC, Jeffrey King DFC, John Welch DFC, P/O Wyatt (PoW). <u>Sgts:</u> Jack Harris Walker DFM, Jimmy Davies, Roe, Fellick, Fields, Wilcox, Davidson, Ferguson, Shute, Oxford, Hamalin, Burke (PoW), Giles (PoW), Peters. <u>Posted from 139Sq:</u> Sgts Hepworth, Lewis, Urch <u>Posted from 21Sq:</u> Sgts Fiddes (Can), Herbert (AUST), McKee, Collier, Gould <u>Posted from 110Sq:</u> Sgts JW Martin, LG Girling <u>Posted from 114Sq:</u> Sgt Turnbull Ground crew: F/Sgt Rayner & Sauli; Sgts Hardy & Harris; Cpls Dicks, Turner, Fletcher, Taverner, Watson & Hind; LAC Saunders; ACs Bird, Skinner & White. <i>GW: 13/12/1941, Z7847, 18Sq, FTR. Shot down by Me 109 during raid on Argostoli harbour & ditched. Sgt F Jury, Sgt T Black &</i> |

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| | | | | | <i>Sgt D Mortimer rescued by fishermen.</i> |
| Sq/Ldr ASK Scarf | 12 | Wanted | | Dave Taylor | Two requests: a) Would like to hear/see factual report whereby Sq/Ldr Scarf awarded posthumous VC in FE. b) Requests confirmation of Japanese report that crippled BB flown into & destroyed Japanese landing craft off Kota Bharu, Malaya in early part of FE war by unnamed pilot. Possibly 34Sq or 62Sq operating from Tengah or Butterworth. |
| 30 Squadron | 12 | Wanted | | John F Hamlin | Aviation historian & author writing history of 30Sq seeks material, especially anecdotal, of experiences of air & ground crew when 30Sq in Iraq, Egypt, Greece & Crete, plus any photos, for <i>Air-Britain</i> publication in 2001. (This was published in 2002 as ' <i>Flat Out: The Story of 30 Squadron Royal Air Force</i> ') |

Issue 38: June 2000

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|----------------------------|------|--------|--|---------------|---|
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Comments | Andrew Pierce | 'Tommy' Broom spoke at the AGM in May. Joint venture with Hurricane Society at Shuttleworth. Liz Pierce editing next 2 issues of journal only; looking for new editor. Successful trip to Denmark by BB & several show, but some show organisers require insurance now, which costly (£250-£400). Last issue Mike Henry editing; thanks given. |
| Hugh George & Betty George | 1 | Report | Congratulations | Mike Henry | Hugh & Betty's Diamond Anniversary on 25/05/1940. Celebrations delayed due to Hugh's broken hip. |
| | 2 | Report | Annual General Meeting 1 st April 2000 | Mike Henry | 50+ members attended AGM at Wyllyotts, Potters Bar, incl 3 from Hurricane Soc. Tommy Broom (navigator to Sir Ivor Broom) talked about his long RAF career, exploits & 6-week escape via Europe & Spain. Wishes to Evie Saunders for speedy recovery. MH thanks committee for kind words & the Diverse Images Blenheim presented; also thanks Joan Scrivener at West 4 Printers. |
| | 2 | Report | Eating out at Potters Bar | Ron Hicks | Impressions of his first Blen Soc AGM; ½hr 'business', rest 'social'. Learnt about role RAF in 'Combined Operations'; RH laid Summerfield Track for Royal Engineers in Germany in 50s. Tom Broom interesting & lived in Portishead (near RH). |
| | 2-3 | Letter | Excerpts from Ian Carter's Letter | Ian Carter | IC comments on his 2 nd AGM. Ian (35 yr old Waterboard employee) aims to keep memory of Blenheim people alive, esp 211Sq 'The Greyhounds'. Esp interest in BBs in Western Desert, Greece & FE Campaigns. Made very welcome by everyone (incl Tom Broom & Sir Ivor Broom). A day to remember. |
| | 3 | | 211 Squadron's L6670 | Mike Henry | Sources of info/pic BB L6670: ' <i>Bristol Blenheim</i> ' by Chas Bowyer p39. P75 & p78. ' <i>Blenheim Squadrons of World War 2</i> ' by Jon Lake, p40. ' <i>Men behind the Medals</i> ' by A/Cdr Graham Pitchfork, p86. 211Sq, 32Sq, Tatoi, Paramythia. To RHAf 01/04/1941. Pic of L6670 landing at Tatoi after raid on |

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| | | | | | Italians in Albania. |
| | 3 | Notice | Diverse Images – new release | | New releases: Blenheim MkI, Beaufighter TFX, Hurricane Prototype, Mosquito NF XII, Seafire FFR47, Sea Fury FBII & Spitfire Vc. See www.diverse-images.com (pic of model BB on stand) |
| | 3 | | 'Night Airwar' by Theo Boiten | Mike Henry | Editor comments that unable to review (as requested) as can't afford to buy copy! |
| | 4 | Wanted | Battle of Britain – a plea for information | Thomas Burrows | New Junior Member told by farmer Mr Gibbs of Rumbolds Farm, Plaistow, West Sussex about Dornier DO17 coming down nearby at Ebernoe, Petworth. 3 Crew buried at Ebernoe churchyard until re-buried at Luftwaffe cemetery. Who claimed the 'kill', AA or RAF? Dornier's Unit? Exact crash site? |
| | 4 | | Weasenham Hall Memories | Mike Henry | Jim Moore sent 'Eastern Daily Press' article (08/03/2000) about demolition of Weasenham Hall, Norfolk. Editor reminisces about being billeted there with 101Sq, West Raynham, 01-06/1941 with 'Chesty' Chesterman (WOp/AG), then later to 114Sq with 'Bunny' Rogers (Obs). Mrs Coke cooked game they shot on Earl of Leicester's estate. |
| | 4 | | Junior Picture Competition | | Results of competition (see 37/02); 1 st Cadet White; 2 nd Elizabeth Carr (age 7, see 37/06); 3 rd Danny Stevens (age 8). Pics of photo & two drawing of Blenheim. |
| 248 Squadron | 5 | Article | Tragedy in Southern Norway – an interesting follow-up | Mr HL Flower | Reading 05/37 reminded Flower of time as WOp/AG with 248Sq. He had flown with P/O Warren several times; 04/09/1940 with S/Ldr Streatfield on SAI patrol; 22/09/1940 with acting CO F/Lt Morewood. S/Ldr Coates, who crashed with Warren, not in 248Sq long. 248Sq started as VR unit with Coastal Command, then Fighter Command in B of B. Then, based in Shetland, long-range recce over Norwegian coast. Longest flight was 7hrs in BB N6194 to Trondheim from Sumburgh (Shetlands). Flower left 248Sq in 07/1941 then 9yrs as WOp ending as Master Signaller in Berlin Airlift. |
| | 5 | | Nagasaki – John Ford | | Follow up visit to John Ford (see 11/37) by Mike Ford's sister in Newfoundland. JF was mechanic fitter on 36Sq (Torpedo Bomber) until posted to Singapore to work on Vickers Torpedo bombers & train as Gunner. Became PoW & to Nagasaki were badly treated. Left Nagasaki 3 weeks after bomb exploded, taken to US hospital ship but, as 'colonial' refused recuperation camp in UK. Instead spend Xmas 1945 at Regent Palace Hotel, London (19/- per night!). Several articles & TV about his experiences. |
| 25 Squadron | 5 | Wanted | Information regarding 25 Squadron Crew | Geoff Kennell | Research for Shoreham Aircraft Museum on BB MkI L1439 crash at Dartford, Kent, on 18/05/1939. Pilot Sgt John Granville Lingard (565629) baled out; WOp/AG AC Frances Roy Jones (813589) killed. JG Lingard joined 25Sq 10-11/1937 & 219Sq on 24/10/1940. Retired as W/Cdr Lingard on 31/03/1958. Does anyone know of him or his family? <i>GW: 18/05/1939, L1439, 25Sq. Control lost in cloud @ night & a/c crashed nr Dartford. Sgt J Lingard baled out; AC2 F Jones killed.</i> |
| | 5 | Wanted | RAF Aldergrove | Tom | TD researching for book on RAF Aldergrove |

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| | | | 1939/45 – Help! | Docherty | & requests any info or loan photos, logbook entries, etc. Contact details provided. |
| | 5 | Pic | | | Cartoon from 'AGA Turret' |
| | 6-7 | Pics | The Blenheim Society's 1999 Season | | Five photos by Andrew Pierce: North Weald 05/1999; Rougham 08/1999; North Weald 09/1999; Duxford marquee 05/1999; Fred, Mick & Derek at Duxford 10/1999. |
| | 8 | | Great Massingham's New Sign | Sister Laurence | Sister Laurence of Little Massingham known for research into squadrons & personnel at Great Massingham during WWII, including a Roll of Honour. With closure of their retreat in 08/2000 this will be available from Massingham Village Store or Massingham History Society (address given, chairman is Anthony Robinson) who will also have the exhibition (portable) & records of RAF Squadrons based there. On 15/08/2000 Millennium Fete opened by Kenneth Wolstenholm (ex 107Sq pilot whose Navigator buried at Little Massingham). Pic of new village sign depicting Ockley's (midnight) Baker – with pies ready for crews returning from night-time ops. On 18/06/2000 Sister Laurence representing Massingham Squadron at dedication to West Raynham crew of 114Sq which crashed at Brisley 10/06/1942. Sir Ivor Broom also attending. Editors reply included & Sister's new address in Rickmansworth. Also wording on village plaque mentions Blenheims. <i>GW: 08-09/06/1942, V5455, 114Sq, FTR. Took off for intruder op, reported engine trouble, jettisoned bombs, attempted return to base, crashed 1hr later @ Brisley & destroyed by fire. P/O J Graham, Sgt M Beaufoy & Sgt L Harrowell KIA.</i> |
| | 8 | | No 2 Group Reforms | '101 Squadron News' | Reorganisation of RAF Strike Command. 101Sq in No 2 Group 07/1936-07/1941 with Overstrands, Blenheims & Wellingtons. 101Sq first op unit at Brize Norton (09/1939). 101Sq also with No 3 Group (Wellingtons); No 1 Group 1942 - 1992 (Lancasters, Lincolns, Canberras, Vulcans & VC10s) then in reformed No 38 Group until it disbanded & now rejoined No 2 Group. |
| | 8 | Wanted | Request for Information re Crews of Two Blenheims which Crashed on the Island of Rozenburg | John Prooi | On 28/08/1941 2 BBs crashed on Island of Rozenburg & following crew died: 88Sq in BB L9379 P/O TG Edwards, P/O FA Letchford & Sgt F Tweedale. 21Sq in BB Z7435 Sgt K Hayes, Sgt AAC Shaddick & Sgt RFF Brain. All buried in general cemetery at Hook of Holland. Mr J Prooi of Rozenburg would be grateful for photo of any of these crew members. <i>GW: in addition to above on 28/08/1941 V6436 21Sq shot down by flak while attacking docks; P/O F Orme RCAF, P/O S Gunnis & P/O A Collins KIA. Also Z7447 21Sq shot down by flak attacking docks & crashed into sea. S/Ldr R Shuttleworth, F/Sgt D Mackan & Sgt G Britain (aged 20) KIA. All crews buried Hook of Holland cemetery except Richard Shuttleworth (age 21) who died injuries in Amsterdam Hospital.</i> |
| | 9 | | The Time when Operational | Mike Henry | Flying cancelled for 110Sq & 107Sq at Wattisham. On 29/10/1940 Dorniers |

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| | | | Blenheims were Grounded | | attacked dropping SD2 anti-personnel bombs ('Butterfly Bombs'); as low-flying attack, many didn't explode & littered airfield. All ranks given bundle sticks, paraded 'line abreast' & moved across grass airfield putting stick near any SD2s. Armourers later placed SD2s in van to dispose of; 2 lost their lives. Similar @ Ipswich 28/10/1940 & policemen killed; Lt Taylor & Sgt Cann dealt with them with Sgt awarded George Medal. Pic: line of crew ready for 'sweep'. |
| | 9 | Event | La Coupole and 60 th Anniversary of Dunkirk | | La Coupole on hillside outside Saint-Omer at Helfaut-Wizernes, huge underground built 10/1943 by Todt Organisation to launch V2 rockets on London. Huge concrete dome with 7km tunnels in which 500 Soviet prisoners 'disappeared'. La Coupole now a museum open for visitors. Detail given of opening times & ticket prices, etc. |
| | 9 | Event | Airport Diamond Jubilee | <i>'Eastern Daily Press'</i> | Jim Moore sent clipping: Norwich Airport (formerly Horsham St Faith) celebrates 60 year of flight with two-day air-show (05-06/08/2000), including 'our' Blenheim. Details of tickets, etc. |
| | 10 | Wanted | George Checketts' Long Blenheim Career | | G Checkett joined war day it broke out, trained as WOP at Yatesbury & gunner at Jurby & Squires Gate. Posted 13 OTU, Bicester. First crew Sgt Frank Barker & Sgt Bob Hay & together to 1944 flying BBs. Posted Thorney Island & flew non-stop to Malta & on to Abu Suir, ME Command. 211Sq in Greece where most BBs lost, then 113Sq with ops to Benghazi, Tobruk, Derna & Sidi Barrani. Norman Lee, who wrote about Checketts, is gathering items to present to George. Blen Soc giving pic from Duxford of 'Blenheim Boys'. Any item for George to Norman (contact details given). Pic: Norman Lees with framed pic of BB for George. |
| | 10 | Review | Sir Hughie Edwards. VC – his biography | Mike Henry | <i>'Hughie Edwards VC: The Fortunate Airman'</i> by Arthur Hoyle. Family migrated from Wales to Australia in 1909, Hughie joined RAAF in 07/1935 flying de Havilland Moths then Westland Wapiti before transferring to RAF. Posted to Ternhill, then Abingdon, HQ 2 Group in 1936 15Sq (Hawker Hinds) then 90Sq Bicester with Hinds then Blenheims. First op 139Sq on 26/02/1941 'Circus' over Calais. Lead 105Sq in attack on Bremen ... recommended to read the book! |
| P/O RE Smaridge | 11 | Article | Missing Off Malta and it's Roll of Honour | Mark Bailey | Mark compiling biographies for local heritage trust of 56 WWI & 15 WWII names on War Memorial at Bovey Tracey, Devon. One is P/O RE Smaridge, RAF 1942. This is P/O Richard Eric Smaridge (East Street, Bovey Tracey) WOp/AG KIA 06/02/1942 when 21Sq BB Z7304 shot down near Filfia, uninhabited island off Malta. Smaridge not on Siege roll. CWGC lists him as 88Sq & commemorated on Malta Air Force Memorial. Tony Spooner's book <i>'Faith, Hope and Malta GC'</i> quotes from 21Sq pilot P/O Jack Booth's diary. Mark traced Booth via George Cross Island Assn, but he's no memory of Smaridge. More info from ex-Wellington pilot: four 21Sq BBs left Luqa for |

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| | | | | | <p>Buayrat al Hasun, Libya on 06/02/1942. Z7308, Z9725 & Z9822 piloted by S/Ldr Russell Stewart, F/Sgt Gordon Cameron (both RNZAF) & P/O Jim Grieve completed op and are only 3 names on Seige roll of honour for 06/02/1942. Bodies of Z9725 Obs (Sgt Ronald Fletcher) & WOp/AG (Sgt George Hancock) & Z9822 WOp/AG (Sgt Ronald Hall) recovered from sea. These 21Sq NCOs recorded in '<i>Malta: Blitzed But Not Beaten</i>' as buried on Malta. Three crew, incl Eric Smaridge, remain unidentified/unrecorded, but he was probably S/Ldr Stewart's WOp/AG. Eric joined RAF 05/1939 & commissioned 01/1942. Any info/sources to identify full crew list welcome. Contact details given. <i>GW: p521. All 21Sq BBs shot down by Me 109s off Filfia island returning from raid on 06/02/1942: BB Z7308; pilot S/Ldr R Stewart (RNZAF), Obs P/O D Morris & WOp/Ag R Smaridge (on Malta war memorial). BB Z9822; pilot P/O J Grieve, Obs P/O C Rowley, WOp/AG Sgt R Hall (on Malta Memorial). BB Z9725; pilot F/Sgt G Cameron (RNZAF), Obs Sgt R Fletcher, WOp/AG Sgt G Hancock (buried in Malta).</i></p> |
| F/Lt Moody , acting CO, 84Sq | 11 | Wanted | Monastir Gap/Florina Area, Greece, 1941 | Ian Carter | <p>Requests info on squadrons (other the 112Sq) attacking advancing German troops in Monastir Gap/Florina, north Greece, 08-15/04/1941. Also about F/Lt Moody, acting CO 84Sq, leading 3 BBs in attack near Koritza, late 1940.</p> |
| | 11 | Obits | We still see their faces and hear their voices – to absent friends | Editor | <p>Recent death of Society members: John Dear (died 15/02/2000); Mr FC Mitchener from Arlsey; Don Anderson (see desert pic in 07/26); S/Ldr LA Stephens (died 27/02/2000); G/Cpt Hugh Lynch-Blosse (02/2000 – author of '<i>Wings and other things</i>'. Pub 1990)</p> |
| | 12 | Report | Operating the Blenheim | Graham Warner | <p>2000 is 60th anniversary of fateful year when BB squadrons forefront of fight for survival. 20/01/2000: Duxford reception with TV etc & BB in Grp2 1940 camouflage, R3821, 82Sq (UX-N). Don McFarlane DFM & Frank Harbord attended, Bill McGrath invited (all ex-82Sq). Vickers VGO replaced twin Brownings. Blenheim team: 'Smudge' Smith, Colin Swann, Barry Wright, James Gilmour & Ian Arnold undertook winter maintenance for Annual Inspection & Permit to Fly under John Romain's supervision. This, plus work on propellers (CAA Notice 75), new exhaust valves, cylinder barrel Cermet Chromed, new intercom, etc all cost £1,000s. Original volunteers now busy working for ARCo. Mentions B of B displays: IWM (Duxford) with BB giving 10 displays over a w/e; 604Sq reunion @ Northolt (01/2000); Middle Wallop (03/2000); Aalborg (04-07/05/2000) to celebrate Danes Liberation Day when escorted by 2 Danish Air Force F-16s. Flypast Vadum Cemetery where 20 82Sq aircrew buried after 11 BB shot down on 13/08/1940. A Pembroke flew ex 82Sq McFarlane & Harbord who granted 'Freedom of Aalborg' & R3821 clock brought back to Watton Museum. £10,000 from 1999 Draw. Importance of Blen Soc fund-</p> |

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| | | | | | raising to keep BB flying, esp with increasing insurance costs. Thanks to Derek Baden, Andrew Pierce, Ron Scott & rest of committee. |
| | 12 | Report | From the Treasurer's Pen | Ron Scott | Encouraging members to sell enclosed 'Draw 2000' tickets. Promotes Battle of Britain Airshow, Duxford, 9-10/09/2000 where Soc subsidising marquee & private enclosure for members. Hurricane & Spitfire Socs & FAA Assn also invited. Send in order form as numbers limited to 150/day. |
| | 12 | | Two airman chatting in the Park | | Joke?? |

Issue 37: March 2000

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|--------------------------|------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Comments | Andrew Pierce | Hon Sec Betty George has moved to Wales. Ron Scott to deal with finances. 1999 Draw raised £10,000 for Blenheim Appeal. BB now painted in 82Sq colours. 'Battle of France' event @ Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden on 07/05/2000. Sir Ivor Broom correct to say Society going through change. |
| | 1 | Pic | | | Ron Scott presenting 'Smudge' Smith £10,000 cheque for ARC |
| | 2 | Report | From the Treasurer's Pen | Ron Scott | Mail Orders: £800 worth received to date! 2000 Subs & Donations: Reminder subs due each 1 st Jan. Events 2000: Hope to have Blen Soc stall @ all Duxford events &, on 09-10/09/2000, Marquee with Hawker Hurricane Soc (& maybe Spitfire Soc & FAAA) in Sept. Events planned @ Rougham, Shoreham, Cosford, Watton, Swanton Morley, Old Warden, Fly-in @ North Weald, Blenheim Day & ATC day |
| | 2 | | Junior Picture Competition Winners | | 1 st : Cadet White 114Sq ATC won Chipmunk flight. 2 nd : Elizabeth Carr, 7yrs, Benfleet, Essex. 3 rd : Danny Stevens, 8yrs, Chelmsford. 2 nd & 3 rd received video of Blenheim. |
| | 2 | | Junior membership | Mick Ford | Encouraging junior members to get involved. |
| | 2 | Report | Resurrection of 2 Group | Mike Henry | 2 Group Officers Luncheon Club letter states RAF Strike Command reshuffle puts 2 Group in front-line ops & air-to-air refuelling |
| Sgt F Gunning, Obs, XVSq | 2 | Wanted | XV Squadron 1940 - Request | Thomas Payne | T Payne (ex-XVSq) requests info ref cousin, Sgt Gunning (Obs). Shot down 12/06/1940; buried Dieppe with pilot P/O Takedali. <i>GW: R3747, 15Sq, FTR sortie Le Bourget shot down Malleville; P/O A Takideli, Sgt F Gunning & Sgt D Peuleve KIA</i> |
| | 2 | | Info re RAF Deceased from Internet | Mike Henry | After 58yrs MH contacted Ron Scholefield (both in Malta 1941 & to UK in HMS Kenya). Ron's a/c collided with W/Cdr Scivier's a/c over Homs. Ron's son (retired W/Cdr) found details of W/Cdr Donald William Scivier AFC (43073 pilot 105Sq, died 22/09/1941, Tripoli War Cemetery) on CWGC website & suggests use of internet to those with PC. |
| | 2 | Wanted | Wartime | | Request for info from Mr Carlos Joaquim |

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| | | | Landings/Crashes in Portugal | | Guerreiro via Tommy Thompson. Carlos writing back about crews who landed/crashed in Portugal in WWII. BB crews on way to Malta/ME likely candidates. Contact details. |
| | 3 | Wanted | Blenheims at West Raynham | Colin J Church | Colin, of Great Massingham, researching BB bombers at RAF West Raynham in WWII & requests info about 85Sq & 101Sq BB crews based there. Editor believes 114Sq & 614Sq flew BBs from WR, not 85Sq. Suggests booklet by W/Cdr WJ Taylor ' <i>Raynham Reflections</i> ' as source of info. Contact detail. |
| | 3 | | Loss of three sons out of four | | Re: 35/07. Prof David Gunby contacted Ed. P/O WG Edwards was a WOp/AG not Obs as stated. <i>Daily Mirror</i> pic showed both William & brother P/O Leslie Edwards wearing Obs Brevets. Editor apologies any distress. |
| | 3-4 | | A Wartime Episode over Holland | Albertus H Klein | Albertus, age 13, lived 3½ miles west of Soesterberg aerodrome, Holland. Night arrival of German forces 10/05/1940. Single engine fighters firing tracer; lots of Dutch AA, huge cloud of smoke, then silence. His father commander in army reserve at Zeist was away 10 days. Rest of family to factory @ Utrecht (not Haarlem as planned). Watched German Heinkel 111, Junker 52 transporters & Messerschmitt 109s from roof. Suddenly, from roof, they saw a/c with red, white & blue roundels – English had come to save us! This fighting a Heinkel (which shot down by Danish AA). This air battle in Peter Townsend's ' <i>Dual of Eagles</i> '. A/c was BB flown by F/O Norman Hayes to Rotterdam, attacking Waalhaven aerodrome. Lost on way home & disappeared in cloud. Albertus exchanged letters with Peter Townsend & Douglas Bader in 1974. (sent in by Janet Davidson) |
| | 4 | | Journal Editorship | Mike Henry | For personal reasons Mike announces his retirement from being editor |
| | 4 | | Tragedy in Southern Norway | | Jan Erik Thorbjornsen wrote in Anglo-Norse Society that near Mandal (S tip of Norway) in Agder hills RAF BB (Z5956) crashed into granite block 09/02/1941, a dark misty day. 248Sq names on isolated granite: S/Ldr JJE Coates, 37157 (pilot, 27yrs); P/O DAP Warren, 78259 (Obs, 24yrs); Sgt Angus Douglas, 974493 (WOp/AG, 23yrs). Buried in Mandal Cemetery with other who lost lives in area. (Sent in by Jim Moore). <i>GW: 08/02/1941, Z5956, 248Sq. FTR shot down nr Mandal, Norway. S/Ldr J Coates, P/O D Warren & Sgt A Douglas KIA. Buried.</i> |
| James Waters, Obs, 21Sq | 4-5 | Research | The Ardennes Re-visited | J Bartlet | Blen Soc member David Waters researching James Waters, Obs, 21Sq, cashed 06/1940 & buried with crew @ Boullion, France. David send J Bartlet pic of these 3 BB crew graves in 09/1998. James' pilot, Sgt John Outhwaite, had been shot down 14/05/1940 near Charleville-Mezierres on return from bombing Panzers near Sedan. J Bartlet was his WOp/AG & decided to find exact site of crash; JB to hospital with bullet wounds & didn't see his crew again. Air Ministry shows crash at Attigny, JB thought this wrong as saw 'Ville |

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| | | | | | <p>Villaine' from ambulance. Maybe was 'Aubigny' which on course to Watton. JB sent letter to Ardennes newspaper (address from French Embassy) in 01/1999 – 25 replies about 13 separate crashes! Got photo from near Aubigny which JB recognised as crash site from which they'd fled leaving L8738 wheels-up. JB leg injuries meant had to stop – others back to 21Sq. French historian, Pierre Roger, written back re air ops in battle for France 05/1940, told JB that Blen Soc got trip to Reins for AASF memorial anniversary. JB posted BEF with 57Sq (BBs) Upper Heyford in 1939 & friends in AASF bombers. Pierre & JB drove 80kms north, via Rethel, to Aubigny-les Pothees to meet Mayor & former Mayor who witnessed crash. First to field hospital site, then meal at 'Mairie', then to crash site. Amazed at Johnny Outhwaite's skill! Met French Army General from Ardeene Div HG & photos in 'L'Union' newspaper. Then, with Pierre & researcher Raymond Vaudier, to Belgian border crash-site of No 2 in 21Sq Vic on 14/05/1941; all crew died & buried by Germans at unknown site. At small village (Neufmanil) met Jean-Pol Cordier (Societe des Ecrivaines Ardennais President) & trek to crash site in thick forest at Sugny, Belgium. Then to Jean-Pol's garden where BB L8742 propeller, reduction gear & plaque for 21Sq crew. Was given bits of both L8742 & L8738 to take home. Thanks to David & Natalie Bartlet for translation. <i>GW: 14/05/1940, 21Sq, L8742, shot down in target area: P/O R Gilmore (pilot), Sgt T Pearce (Obs), AC1 A Wilson (WOp/Ag) KIA, on Runnymede memorial. L8738, 21Sq, badly damaged attacking target & crash landed: Sgt J Outhwaite, Sgt E Broadland & AC1 J Bartley (wounded) evaded capture & rejoined Squadron.</i></p> |
| | 5 | Pic | Which foot? In which hole? Then what? | | Ron Scott attempting to climb into Blenheim |
| | 6 | | Junior Page | Elizabeth Carr | <p>In 10/1999 Carr family visited relatives in Canada &, between Calgary & Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo Jump, saw wrecked BB in field. Phoned nearby Nanton Lancaster Museum (run by NL Society); their curator (John) owned field & allowed to visit BB. At Museum for \$1 saw Lancaster wheels go up & down. Saw BB (Bollingbroke) being restored, cockpit dedicated to Sgt Albert Stanley Prince (1st Canadian killed in BB in WWII) & lots pics of BBs, etc. In field few BBs, 2 in pieces & 1 with holes in fuselage, also Beechcraft & Ansons (thanks: Mike Ford) <i>GW: 04/09/1939, 107Sq, N6240. FTR, damaged & hit sea. Sgt A Prince (pilot), Sgt G Booth (Obs), AC1 L Slattery (WOp/AG). Prince (580195, age 29) KIA & 1st of some 10,000 Canadians died serving Bomber Command in WWII. Booth & Slattery rescued & first of 10,000 RAF PoWs.</i></p> |
| | 6 | Pics | | Mrs Carr | Elizabeth, Matthew & William Carr in front of Lancaster @ Nanton Museum; Bolingbroke being restored; Bolingbroke |

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| | | | | | fuselages in field; more wreckage. |
| F/Sgt Arthur Guesford | 7 | Report | Visit to Arthur's grave in Denmark | Mick Ford | Describes visit to his Uncle's grave in Denmark (F/Sgt A Guesford). Drove south from Esbjerg to Kirkeby cemetery on Romo island. Only few German & British Common-wealth graves. Mike's sister remembers Hurricane fly-over at Arthur's wedding from nearby Rochford airfield; leaving Kirkeby church a lone jet banked over cemetery! Then to museum at Skaerbaek & saw photo of Kirkeby cemetery with Arthur's grave. Next day to Skaebaekegnens Museum, Padborg (on German border). Dr Henrik Kristensen (doctorate on WWII at Cambridge) written book in Danish, but captions to pics & conclusion in English which Mike Ford has will pass to Blen Soc archives. <i>GW: 15/056/1941, V6375, 110Sq. FTR from shipping sweep, shot down by Me 109s. F/Sgt A Guesford, Sgt C Shearn & Sgt Rolfe KIA. Guesford & Rolfe buried Kirkby; Shearn named Runnymede.</i> |
| | 7-8 | Data | The Debt to our Airmen | Mike Henry | Long quote from Churchill 21/08/1941 speech ('Never in the field of human conflict etc ...) from <i>'Manchester Guardian'</i> sent in by Bill Burberry. Many soldiers asked where RAF was at Dunkirk; Mike provides figures of RAF losses. Between 10/05/1940 & 20/05/1940 300 of 500 BBs lost in action or crashed & 103 from other Commands (AASF 37, Air Component 41, Fighter Command 11. Coastal Command 14). During 25 days of Battle of Britain out of 954 sorties 175 FTR; 1 loss for every 5.45 sorties. Air Ministry document (11/1942) shows survival chances for light bomber crews was 25.5% on 1 st tour & 6.5% on 2 nd . Only torpedo bombers fared worse. |
| P/O Arthur Lionel Alfred Williams (Obs) RAFVR 65558 P/O Maurice Fredrick Williams, (WOp/AG) 84911, KIA age 34 | 8 | Article | A quest for three men in a Blenheim | Michael Williams (aided by Bill Corfield & Vera Williams) | On 12/08/1941 21Sq BB V5874, shot down returning to Watton from raid on Cologne power station. The body of P/O Maurice Williams' (WOp/AG) was washed up on Texel island & buried, with crew, at Den Berg. His son, MW, was 5. MW never knew names of other crew. In 1995 <i>'Croydon Advertiser'</i> Mike Marshall, Sec of Croydon Airport Society (CAS), asks for airport pics from 1920s-30s. MW had glass slides from his old headmaster ('Pip')so contacts Sec CAS, tells him about his father & is put in contact with Julian Horn, a curator at RAF Museum, Watton. Via Margaret Hennessy, & Bill Burberry (ex-BB WOp/AG) MW put in touch with Bill Corfield, brother of Jim Corfield, pilot on V5874. Bill had photos & letters etc, & said V5874 probably shot down by Adolph Galland, German Luftwaffe ace. Print of BB at Watton Museum shows crew as Jim Corfield (pilot); Arthur Williams (Obs); Maurice Williams (WOp/AG). Needed to find Arthur's relatives now. Date of birth from Air Historical Branch – born 1913 in East Ham. Wrote to RAF Personnel asking for letter to be forwarded to Arthur's next of kin. Reply received from Mrs Edith Billett (in WWII Williams & Billetts shared house in Bath) who last heard from Arthur's family 8yrs before from Tavistock area of |

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| | | | | | Devon. Letter to local papers & reply from Mrs Vera Williams (widow of Arthur's younger brother, Bob) who had known Arthur well (was an accountant with law degree from King's College) & had photos of Arthur & letters mentioning Jim & Maurice. <i>GW: 12/08/1941, V5874, 21Sq. FTR, struck HT cables, crashed into sea off Texel. P/O J Corfield, P/O A Williams & P/O M Williams KIA & buried Den Burg Cemetery</i> |
| P/O James Wilmot Corfield , RAFVR, 65533, 21Sq, pilot, KIA aged 25 | 9 | Article | A postscript from Bill Corfield | Bill Corfield | Bill demobbed 06/1947. On 12/08/1986 he flew to his brother's grave & met Ed de Bruijn, Texel Airfield Manager. In 1990 a WWII RAF researcher provided details of 12 BBs lost on 12/08/1941. Brother Jim probably shot down by Adolf Galland. In 04/1991 met 3 ex-wartime Luftwaffe ME109 pilots at Southport airport who advised that Bill's wife (Annelie Corfield) wrote a 'well-phrased' letter in German to (now) General Galland. He replied that, on 12/08/1941, he'd shot a BB into sea which lagged behind 17 others (one of V5874 engines damaged) returning to UK. Bodies of 3 crew found 10 days & 118 miles away. On 12/08/1991 Bill flew to Texel, circled crash site, met family who tended Jim's grave & 50 years later, said farewell to brother, his 21Sq crew & all other lost BB crews. |
| | 9 | | Laugh, not exercise, and be fit! | | Anecdote |
| Sgt RA Freestone , Obs, 110Sq | 10 | | From an Observer's Diary | Sgt RA Freestone | Sent in by Paddy Porter, 2 days of verbatim diary by Sgt Ronald A Freestone, Obs, RAF VR of 110Sq. Fri 18/04/1941: Describes waking at midnight and a night raid over Neuzen when ships not found. Returning to base told Harvey Wright, Norman Kendal & George Cornwall, most experienced crew in 110Sq, had crashed & all killed. Sat 19/04/1941: a day off, describes lazy morning, hitching into Ipswich with Sam Leadbeater, Fastmans cafe, Ritz, Blanche Fleur cafe, what ate, etc. Muses that, after 3½ months, his is now the most experienced crew in the Squadron. Ends: <i>'Life moves fast and Death strikes even faster'</i> 17 days later, on 06/05/1941, BB IV R3600 VE, 110Sq, took off from Wattisham for shipping sweep in 'Beat 7', crashed in North Sea off Dutch Coast. Crew: pilot F/Lt Edwards N Steel (pilot RAF) age 24 from Wellington (NZ); Sgt Ronald A Freestone (Obs) (both named Runnymede); Sgt Joseph D Bramhall (WOp/AG RAF) age 33 from Glasgow & buried Sage, Germany. Upsetting, but read this to get some understanding of how aircrew are feeling. <i>GW: 18/04/1941, R2787, 110Sq. FTR: took off Watton on anti-shipping sortie, struck tree airfield perimeter, crashed, destroyed by fire. Sgt H Wright, Sgt N Kendall & F/Sgt G Cornwall KIA.</i> <i>06/05/1941, R3600, 110Sq. FTR Shot down by flak during anti-shipping sortie. F/Lt E Steel (NZ), F/Sgt R Freestone & Sgt J Bramhall KIA. Named on Runnymede.</i> |

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| | 10 | Letter | The Vancouver Bolingbroke | Mike Henry | Summarised letter from Tony Frick re item in 36/05. Bolingbrook has been on display 20+yrs at small museum, run by volunteers, at north end of Victoria International Airport on Vancouver Island. Tony know place well. In 1940/41 he was F.ME & FIIE on 105Sq with Blenheims & Mosquitos & once worked on Hughie Edwards' a/c. |
| | 10 | Pics | RAF Gatow, Berlin 1946 | Mike Henry | Two photos of destroyed a/c at RAF Gatow; a) JU87 Stuka; b) probably FW190 – and lots of scrap metal! |
| | 11 | | The Only Canadian to Experience Atomic Bomb Attack | | John Ford, a Canadian a/c mechanic with RAF, taken prisoner in Java & sent as PoW to Nagasaki camp 12/1942 with 1200 others & still there 09/08/1945 when atom bomb dropped. John returned to Newfoundland with no ill effects. Was 2-3miles from centre; 70,000 or 250,000 in Nagasaki killed. |
| | | Data | 2 Group Blenheim Squadrons 1937-44 Second World War | | List & one line background of 2 Group Blenheim Squadrons (year joined Group 2, alternative name, code, etc): 13Sq, XVSq (15Sq), 18Sq, 21Sq, 40Sq, 57Sq, 82Sq, 88Sq, 101Sq, 107Sq, 110Sq, 114Sq, 139Sq |
| | 11 | Notice | The Twelfth Annual Blenheim Dance | | 17/06/2000, 8pm-midnight @ Duxford Airfield. Tickets £18 + other details |
| | 11 | Notice | Evie Saunders | | Guest of Honour at Leefe Robinson lunch for selling 100s of Draw Tickets is ill. Wishes for speedy recovery |
| | 11 | Obits | We still see their faces and hear their voices – to absent friends | Editor | Recent deaths of Society members: W/Cdr Roy Kendrick, OBE, DFC died 11/1999. Was Blen Soc Treasurer (114Sq in France, then 139Sq, Shot down in France with WOp/AG 'Bones' Newberry, arrested, but rescued by Nun!); W/Cdr Tom Jefferson, DSO, AFC, AE, died 11/1999 in Guernsey, age 85 (see <i>Daily Telegraph</i> , 30/11/1999) Was in 18Sq & exploits in Theo Boiten's ' <i>Blenheim Strike</i> '; AVM Dick died 03/08/1999. Mrs Stride (Reg's wife) died suddenly from 'flu. |
| | 12 | Pics | Roll Out! | | 3 pics: BB in new 82Sq livery, Duxford 20/01/2000, admired by Anglia TV; Don McFarlane DFM (see 36/15) & Frank Harbord DFM, both ex-82Sq, pictured in BB. Frank also in 105Sq, Malta. |
| | 12 | Misc | Extracts from Welfare Letters | | 15 amusing extracts! |

Issue 36: November 1999

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|-------|------|--------|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| | 1 | Report | President's Message | Ivor Broom | Change in Blen Soc Committee: Hugh George (chairman since Soc formed in 1987) resigned (health). 'Founder' members with direct BB experience being replaced by younger enthusiasts, such as new chair, Andrew Pierce. Greeting for new millennium! |
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Andrew Pierce | Successful year for support, airshow & draw tickets – thanks for hard work. New 82Sq livery planned for BB. Thanks to editor for journals quality. |
| | 1 | | | Editor | Hugh & Betty George's new address near Haverfordwest. Still have phone & computer! |
| | 2 | | Queries/Contributions | Editor | Any enquiries about the Journal in writing to |

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| | | | to Journal | | Editor at Betty George's address (given) so Betty can forward. Phone calls difficult. |
| | 2 | | Aircrew Memorial – Blenheim V5455 RT-L 114 Squadron | | Brisley Millennium Committee plan polished granite stone with 114Sq crest & crew details. Est cost £750; chairman, Mr DJ Haines, appeals for funds. Plan dedication for 06/2000 with Sir Ivor Broom (ex-114Sq) officiating. Hope Blenheim can join Tornado fly-past. Contact address given |
| Norman Edwards | 2 | Wanted | Brian Woodruff asks: | | Info on Norman Edwards who joined RAF 1938 @ Prestwick, then to Warmwell, Andover, Bicester & joined Squadron @ West Raynham. Many ops then to N Africa (via Malta) & Greece where wounded & to Pietermaritzberg, S Africa. Flew with Dave Challand. |
| Sgt JE Wilson (WOp/AG) | 2 | Wanted | Information regarding Sgt JE Wilson | | On 28/12/1941 Sgt JE Wilson (WOp/AG) in BB Z5984 on practice from 17 OTU crashed & died 29/12/1941. Any info to Mr Gareth Hanson who researching names on War Memorial @ Tadcaster, N Yorks for Book of Remembrance. Contact details. <i>GW: 28/12/1941, Z5984, 17 OTU. Flew into ground on bombing practice, N Wootton Ranges, Norfolk; Sgt H Thomas, Sgt G Owen & Sgt J Wilson injured. Wilson died later in hospital.</i> |
| | 2 | Wanted | Blenheims at Biggin Hill? | | George Peirson wants info about calibration flight of BBs based Biggin Hill in early 1940s. Used to calibrate Radar stations & as decoy for Spitfire squadrons. Contact given. |
| | 2 | | Massingham Roll of Honour | Sister Laurie | Editor saw Journal ref to P/O Sabine who crashed Massingham 22/04/1941; sent info to Sister Laurence Mary who will add to Roll of Honour, which now 83 pages long. 1 st edition sold out, but have money for reprint. Been on Radio Norfolk & press. Pic: St Mary Retreat Centre, Massingham, Norfolk, former RAF Officers' Mess. <i>GW: 44/04/1941, L1216, 13 OTU (ex-TFU), stalled in cloud & dived into ground nr Little Massingham. Solo pilot P/O A Sabine killed.</i> |
| Sq/Ldr Gordon Hall | 3 | Report | S/Ldr Gordon Hall visits Athens Museum | | Kyriakos Palouljian of Athens sent a translated article from 'AEROPLANO' (issue 35, p5). On 03/11/1997, at request of RAFA Athens branch, retired Sq/Ldr Gordon Hall visited museum to see BB Mk IV L9044 which salvaged from sea off Rethyunon (Rethimno), Crete. CO of Museum Major Hliopoulos (Iliopoulos) (Technical branch) presented Gordon with plaque from perspex from BB's gunner position with insignia of RAF & Hellenic Air Force. Also pic of Gordon Hall in seat of BB where he last sat 1941. <i>GW: 28/04/1941, L 9044, 203Sq, FTR: hit by AA fire from RN destroyer & ditched in sea. F/O P Gordon-Hall, Sgt G Poole & Sgt I Oultram rescued.</i> |
| | 3 | Wanted | Calling Ex-139Sq personnel | Richard Moore | BB IV R3903, 139Sq, crewed by P/O Baser (pilot), Sgt AW Simpson (Obs, RNZAF) & Sgt CE Triggs (WOp/AG), took off 1900 from RAF Horsham St Faith on 04/06/1941 with other squadron a/c to attack De Kooy airfield. R3903 (& Z5744) FTR. Believed shot down by Uffz Nocker in ME 109 of 3/JG1 west of Bergen-Aan-Zee, Holland. R3903 joined 139Sq 12/06/1940 & did 38 ops before crash. Richard Moore, S Shields, wants info. |

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| | | | | | <i>GW: 04/06/1941, 139Sq, both BBs FTR from aborted unescorted raid to De Koy, shot down by Me 109s. R3903; P/O W Baser, Sgt A Simpson & Sgt C Triggs. Z5744; P/O I Lees, Sgt T Osborne & Sgt C Meredith. All 6 aircrew KIA & on Runnymede memorial.</i> |
| | 3 | | Is this News? | | A short piece about the disrespect shown to old people by some of young generation. From <i>'The Turret, Air Gunners' Assn'</i> |
| | 3 | Notice | A Gathering of Eagles - Aircrew 2000 | | Commemorative reunion of 2,000 WWII allied aircrew (all services) serving 03/09/1939 to 03/09/1945 meeting in Perth. Australia, 02-10/09/2000. Chief Patron is Sir William Deane (Gov Gen of Australia), supported by Major Gen Michael Jeffrey (Gov Western Australia), Returned & Service League, RAAF Assn, Aircrew Assn & World Veterans Assn. PM & Leader of Federal Opposition advised of event. Contacts given. |
| | 4 | Wanted | History of RAF Fighter Command 1939-1945 being written | | David Oliver, writer/photographer, (commissioned by Harper Collins to write history RAF Fighter Command) wants official & personal pics of a/c, airfields, personnel or 'typical day' anecdotes (on or off duty/ mundane or dramatic) from aircrew, groundcrew or support personnel who served in Fighter Command during WWII. (See <i>'RAF Fighter Command: from Battle of Britain to 1945'</i> Collins, 2000) |
| Sgt Jack Scow | 4 | Wanted | Anybody Remember Sgt Jack Scow? | | Jack joined RAF in 1924, was at Watton 04/1939 then 23Sq BBs 01/1940 & in Reims area of France. He was Sgt cook & butcher. Mrs JR Pugh, Ascot, would like any info. |
| | 4 | Wanted | 82 Squadron in 1940 - Help Required | | Mr Colin Mitchell, whose uncle died in training flight over Swaffham in BB IV P4855 on 08/04/1940, is researching 82Sq during early WWII. Contact detail given (but not uncle's name) <i>GW: Crew on P4855 Sgt Bennett (pilot) baled out & injured; Sgt I Murdoch, Sgt G Chapman & AC2 J Kemp killed. Control lost in cloud. A/c dived into ground at Hilborough</i> |
| | 4 | Report | The Haddington Blenheim | | Mel Williamson, engineer in charge of rebuild of Haddington Blenheim, sent photo of completed tail assembly. This will attach to rest of (non-flying) BB for open day at East Fortune. Pic: of BB tail assembly. |
| | 4 | Wanted | Calling Ex-55 Squadron Crews 1942 | Les Gibbs | Les Gibbs, ex-WOp/AG 55Sq ask if anyone remembers his former crew, shot down 10/1942 & buried El Alamein Cemetery. F/Lt Tony Ward (pilot) & F/O Bobby Tracy (Obs). Les was ill & replaced as WOp/AG by Sgt Crowhurst. Tony & Bobby great friends of Les & Jeanne Gibbs & would like to hear from relatives or 55Sq members who remember them. Address given. |
| | 5 | Letter | Vancouver's Bolingbroke | Trevor Burgess | Visiting relatives on Vancouver Island Trevor went to small museum at rear island's airport with 7 a/c. One was a Blenheim/Bolingbroke! Ed adds: this a/c (9104) served front-line & training & with 122Sq. Pics: of Bolingbroke front & rear. |
| Sgt LW Chapman (pilot) | 5 | | U-Boat Sunk by Blenheim V | John Hoey | Sgt Lewis William Chapman joined RAF 1941, posted 244Sq, 215 Group, based Masirah & flew Bisleys (BB Mk Ivs). On 16/10/1943 left Sharja in EH404 O with Sgts Bonyng & Murrell. Saw & attacked U-boat U533, Kapt Lt Helmut Hennig, which heading |

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| | | | | | to Gulf of Oman against tanker traffic. Sunk with 4x250lb depth charges. Two men escaped; officer died but rating Gunther Schmidt landed at Khor Fakkan after 28hr in water & rescued by HMIS 'Hiravati'. Later entertained in 244Sq Sgt Mess. Chapman rewarded DFM on 30/10/1943, but never knew. In 07/1944 Lewis Chapman passenger on 44Sq (SAAF) Dakota to Salalah, Aden, which crashed into cliff west of Resuit. All 32 on board killed, incl 7 from 244Sq. From 20/06/1944 (now) P/O Chapman (179798) is listed on Alamein Memorial as missing. Thanks to John Hoey for research & info. |
| | 6 | Report | Blenheim Society Visits Reims. 3-7 Sept 1999 60 th Anniversary of the AASF's Arrival in France | Tony Tranter | Reims visit arranged to co-incide with AASFs arrival in 1939. Visits to Vraux, Betheniville & Berry au Bac organised by Assn Maison Rouge. 48 members & families took part plus officer/airmen from XVSSq (15Sq) & 12Sq from Lossiemouth & trumpeter Cpl Gary Wyatt from RAF Central Band. Describes service @ Vraux church, events at Red House (dedicated to RAF, Luftwaffe & USAF occupying base 1939 – 1945), fly-passes by Chipmunk, Tiger Moth & replica Spitfire, civic receptions, visit to AASF Museum, tour of champagne house, then to Bétheniville to dedication of new AASF memorial, laying wreaths to servicemen KIA. To Berry au Bac, devastated in both WWI (1 st ever attack by French tanks) & WWII. Home via Chemin des Dames, Laon & Calaise. Pic: Cpl Gary Wyatt at Red House, Vraux |
| | 6 | Notice | Proposed Visit to Reims/Vraux – July 2000 | Tony Tranter | Plans & programme for 2000 visit marking 60 th anniversary of Blitzkrieg. Dates 12/07/2000 to 16/07/2000 & Tony's contact. |
| | 7 | Report | Blenheim Society Luncheon 1999 | Mike Henry | Pre-lunch Mike, Tony Tranter, Ken Garrett & Wally Hicks flew in Beech 18 piloted by Alan Walker. Andrew Pierce & Ron Scott flew later. Hugh George unable to come to Duxford, but Betty George & 50 others did. Ivor Broom said his Navigator (also Broom) to speak at AGM. Diverse Images Pewter Blenheim presented to Marathon members, Andy Payne & Dermont Stapleton & to 'Envelope Draw' winner. Grand Draw winners named. Saw parked Blenheim & many toured ARC workshop with Graham Warner & saw restoration of first BB to crash at Denham (exhibition only; not flying) & only surviving Luftwaffe Bf 109 (shot down B of B) Pic: of Beech 18 Expediter & 3 passengers. |
| Bob 'Smudge' Coles | 7 | Report | Bob Examines the Wreck of his Blenheim | | Bob (ex-139Sq obs) opened exhibition at Wierrum, Netherlands, of his crashed BB P4860 part retrieved from Waddenzee mudflats were crashed 07/05/1941. Bob out to crash site remains (with TV cameras, media, etc). Sunny & friendly now; 1941 was midnight, bleeding, wet & in shock! Full account in Theo Boiten's ' <i>Blenheim Strike</i> '. From ' <i>Isle of Wight County Press</i> '; thanks to Jeremy Price for forwarding. <i>GW: 08/05/1941, P4860, 139Sq. FTR from night anti-shipping sweep, struck Waddenzee & ditched 0013. Sgt J Middleton, Sgt K Coles & Sgt H Hale injured but rescued & became PoW.</i> |
| | 8-9 | Article | John Romain Flies | John | Written in 1993, John describes preparation, |

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| | | | the Blenheim | Romain | take-off & landing of the 3 rd airshow flight of the ARC Blenheim since its 5-yr restoration. Pre-flight preparation of two Bristol Mercury engines takes about 2hrs. Unusually brakes are pneumatic & electric master switch on rear of fuselage! Describes getting in cockpit & view of a/c once there. BB Mk IV had inner & outer tanks: larger inner for 87 octane fuel for cruising; outer tanks are 100 octane for take-off & boost > 9lb. This BB been modified by Canadians for training & uses only standard 100LL fuel. Describes how engines are started & warmed up & tasks of ground crew. Then taxiing, further checks and take-off described. Comments on instrument layout & how BB 'feels' to fly, and then details the landing procedures, the heat & smell: a 'unique aircraft & what a privilege it is to fly her'. Gives a feel 'feel' to flying BB. (Originally written for 'Warbirds Worldwide', issue 28) |
| | 9 | Pic | | Mick Ford | Pic: 2461Sq ATC in front of Blenheim at Duxford, 07/1999. Thanks to Mick. |
| | 10-11 | | | Graham Warner | Brings John Romain's 1993 article up-to-date. Early 1999 maintenance for Annual Inspection & Permit to Fly. Blen Soc helped with cost of work undertaken by ARC team ('Smudge' Smith, Colin Swann, Barry Wright, James Gilmour & Ian Arnold) supervised by John Romain. GW showed 114Sq ATC round 29/07/1999, 2461Sq on 31/08/1999 & Soc Members on 22/09/1999. Air Displays with BB: May-Day @ Duxford; Bank Hol Monday @ Watton (21Sq & 82Sq); North Weald (MkIFs of 25Sq & 604Sq); June @ Newtownards (NI) & Waddington; July @ Duxford (Flying Legends), East Fortune ('Blenheim' OTU night-fighters & Coastal Command) & Stirling Castle (commemorate Frank Barnwell, 'Bristol' a/c designer, incl BB). Leaking Carburettor changed. The Wyton (139Sq, 114Sq, 40Sq, XVsq, 57Sq) on 25/07/1999. On 01/08/1999 @ Old Warden for Shuttleworth Collection. Bad weather prevented BB flying at Swanton Morley (105Sq & 226Sq); 22/08/1999 ex-222Sq (BB Fighter Command @ Duxford 1939-1940) reunion photo in front of BB then to Rougham, Bury St Edmunds with John Webb. 04/09/1999 Battle of Britain Flight @ Wattisham (commemorating 110Sq & 107Sq) then Raydon. 05/09/1999 RAFA @ Shoreham, then Shepway & Duxford on 12/09/1999. With John Webb to B of B displays @ Guernsey/Jersey on 16/09/1999. Details changes in colour & markings of Blenheim for 2000 – see Flying Legends Calendar for 2000 – and changed Browning gun with Vickers VGO. Importance of Draw & thanks to Derek Baden, Ron Scott, Andrew Pierce & rest of committee. Also Ron Hicks, AG Payne & Ron Bramley. Pic: BB in 82Sq UX-N livery for 2000 in memory of 12/08/1940 when all 11 82Sq BBs FTR from attack on Aalborg, Jutland. |
| | 11 | Report | 114 Squadron ATC Visits Duxford | Sgt R Power | On 29/07/1999 cadets from 114Sq ATC visited IWM @ Duxford. Saw areas usually closed to visitors; shown workshop by Graham Warner, with Tiger Moth, ME Bf109 |

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| | | | | | & BB shell being restored; then flying BB in hangar. 114Sq flew BBs in WWII. Pic: 114Sq ATC in front of Blenheim |
| | 11 | | Crossword Answers | | Answers to crossword in 35/07. No correct answers received. |
| | 12 | Pic | Air Cadets of 114 Squadron, Atc | | 114Sq ATC Air Cadets from Ruislip & Northwood behind Mick Reed (civilian Instructor), Paul Grass (Adult W/O), Roy Wagstaffe (Sq chairman), guests AM Sir Ivor Broom (ex-114Sq RAF) and Dickie Rook (Blen Soc), F/Lt Roger Pavitt (OC 114Sq ATC), F/O Luke Hornsey (Sq 21C), F/O Steve Pendlebury (Adj), Tony King & Ian Jolly (both civilian instructors) |
| | 12 | Review | Book Reviews 'Familiar Voices' by Frank Harbord | Mike Henry | Frank's book covers his career from TA in 1930s; RAF enlistment & training as Obs (1939); Bicester until 03/1940; 101Sq @ West Raynham; 82Sq @ Watton with 12 BBs; then Malta were Frank crewed with S/Ldr Smithers (pilot) & Bob Lyndall (WOp/AG), He flew with Mike Henry from Luqa on 25/08/1941, 27/08/1941 (Shipping sweep off Crete) & 12/09/1941 (8 a/c on convoy off N African coast). Frank returned to UK via Gibraltar on HMS Hermione & HMS Edinburgh & then joined 60Sq (BBs) & moved East to Mauripur, Lahore, Asansol, Jessore, Dohazari & Yelahanka. In 08/1943 he joined Flying Control Unit at Mauripur & Jiwani. Awarded DFM 07/1943 for high number of ops in Europe, ME & Burma. In 1944 joined Transport Command then (12/1945) Air Trooping westwards until 01/1946. Last postings Bicester, Debden & Digby until released 08/1947. 'Familiar Voices' full of illustrations, maps, photo & interesting material. 183Pages. £19.95. Reviewer draws parallels with his RAF career. |
| | 12-13 | Review | 'A Suitcase Full of Dreams' by David Taylor | Mike Henry | Suffixed 'An Aeronautical Journey', this well-written & often amusing book by David Taylor about his flying career started, age 16, with ATC, then Boy Entrant into RAF in 1951 to become Senior Aircraftsman, Inst Mech (Nav). From Cosford through to Malaya he flew in 142 assorted aircraft (his last in 30Sq Hercules from Lyneham, 04/1998), visited 87 countries, landed in 316 airfields (32 in Australia; 27 in USA) & flew in Helicopters with 155Sq, 194Sq & 110Sq. After leaving RAF undertook Oil Exploration, incl in Africa. Book costs £10 for 345pp, 28 pp photos; illustrated by Arthur Whitlock; pub Delta Tango. Will donate £1.50 to Blen Soc/copy sold. |
| | 13 | Letters | Siren Replies | | Replies to Stanley Saunder's article (35/08) <u>Eric Masters:</u> Undergoing Air Gunnery course @ RAF Pembrey in 08/1941 saw Siren, 'a rather crudely made piece of equipment'. Not heard; no other even seen. <u>AC Ted Sismore:</u> Hear BB siren at RAF Upwood when low-flying over Isle of Ely. No known reaction from sparse local population. <u>Peter Russell:</u> (from S Australia) On BBs @ 70 OTU in Nakuru, Kenya, & fitted siren to 'A flight' BB MkIV. Was as described but with two small paddles fitted to revolving alloy disc. Ghastly noise; frightened natives & us. Peter in 53Sq from 1938 'til chased out of |

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| | | | | | France'; overseas from Detling; on BB at Ishmalia before Kenya. <u>Tommy Thompson</u> : 21/09/1942 test flew BB MkIV T2432 which had force-landed 7 AG School, Stormy Down, Porthcawl. Describes siren in detail, how it was fitted & controlled. In 'scream' position the 'bloodthirsty sound' brought half station to a halt. |
| | 14 | Pic | | | Graham Warner watches Andrew Pierce & Chris Lee with plaque & Sir Ivor Broom |
| | 14 | Report | From Abingdon to War | Hugh George | XVSq & 40Sq based Abingdon flying Hinds & Battles until 01/09/1939 when 24hrs notice to leave for AASF in France. Inoculations left advance party with useless arms to load kit on Battles; flew grass airfield @ Bétheniville, Reims, to cart everything to local village. Main party arrived after few day; bedraggled & hungry. Then 15Sq moved to grass airfield @ Conde-Vraux week later. End 1939 both Sqdns to UK to re-equip with BBs @ Wyton. Operational again by 05/1940 for German onslaught. |
| | 14 | | Speciality of the Mouse! | | Amusing incident about Jeanne & Les Gibbs (married 1941) finding B&B near Watton before Les flew BB to ME. Involves a mouse! Cartoon by Trudy Gibbs-Goessens. |
| | 15 | Data | Blenheim Society Grand Flying Draw 1999 | Derek R Baden | List of names of 8 Draw winners & 2 reserves. Total raised over £9,500. |
| | 15 | | Dear Junior Members | Mick Ford | Welcomes new members; now have 3 ATC Sq members in group – each Sq been sent autographed copy Mike Henry's 'Air Gunner'. Info re quiz answers; picture competition closing date 31/11/1999. 2461Sq adoptive ceremony excellent; thanks for help at airshows. 114Sq had good day out at Duxford, ARC & BB; thanks to Graham Warner. 110Sq (City of York) ATC visiting in 2000. Keep letters coming. |
| | 15 | | 82 Squadron's Attack on 109s | Don McFarlane | Letter in response to Mike Henry's report in 35/05. Don adds: incident occurred on 07/08/1940 when he (82Sq) arrived Haamstede airfield in bad weather, dropped bombs in front of hangar & scooted back to Watton. In mid 1900s Don contacted by Theo Boiten, researching for 'Blenheim Strike'; records show 2 Me 109s destroyed, 4 badly damaged, 5 Germans killed & 17 injured! Consequently 4 Staffel of JG54 at Haamstede unable to join B of B. Don adds that, when 82Sq re-equipped after 17/05/1940 losses @ Gembloux R3821 UX-N came to 82Sq & allocated to Don & crew as 'his kite'. |
| | 15 | Obit | Rest in Peace | | Len Fearnley: Died 07/1999. Daughter Mary-Anne Rankin sent sad new. Latest version of Len's book, 'Blenheim Odyssey' will still be printed by Colin West. |
| | 16 | | Pipes – not for Sailors or Scots! | | Amusing list of supposedly Army Pipe Regulations from REME! |
| | 16 | Letter | A Blenheim/Belgium Association | Bill Murdoch | In letter (dated 27/05/1999) to Betty George, Bill says that, visiting Belgium friends, he met Guy Courtin who had seen his BB crash. Guy recounts that, on 18/05/1940, age 8, during evacuation stopped overloaded car & heard a/c noise & saw crash. On return he retrieved writing pad container as souvenir from crash site, which gave Bill. Took pics at |

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| | | | | | crash site. Bill in 59Sq (Army Co-op); moved at short notice on 04/09/1939. GW: 18/05/1940, R3702, 59Sq. Took off from Poix, FTR. Crash-landed in France. P/O R Durie (pilot) & Sgt R Burns (Obs) KIA. AC1 W Murdoch (WOp/AG) escaped. A/c written off 21/05/1940. |
| | 16 | Wanted | 'The Weather Favours the Blenheims' | Ralph Tallis | Ralph's Grandparents had this print of vic of BB flying by night, which he obtained. It was later thrown away; he asks for a similar print. |

Issue 35: June 1999

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|----------------------|------|--------|---|---------------|--|
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Andrew Pierce | Society's 2 nd Chairman! Thanks to Hugh as Soc in good position ref money, members & only flying BB in world. BB to be in 'Free French' colours. 12 airshows booked for 1999. Draw tickets enclosed. Thanks to committee & Graham Warner who started BB restoration 21year ago. |
| | 1 | | From Hugh to you | Hugh George | Thanks for wishes on retirement as Blen Soc Chairman; good wishes to Andrew Pierce |
| | 1-2 | Report | The 1999 AGM. A brief report on the venue | Betty George | 55 members to AGM at new venue, Wyllyotts Centre, Potters Bar when Betty & Ron Scott arrived. Easy to find & all made welcome, room well laid out & food good & plentiful. Ivor Broom passed Chairmanship from Hugh George to Andrew Pierce (Soc's 1,000 th enrolment) to lead a younger team. |
| Blenheim Society | 2 | Data | President and Committee | | Names of President, 5 society 'official', 6 committee members & BAM Representative |
| | 2 | Pic | 1998 Draw Winners Fly Concorde | | Pic of Peter Tidy (1998 Draw winner) & mother boarding Concorde. |
| | 2 | Data | Grand Flying Draw 1999 - prizes | | Lists 8 amazing free flights for Draw winners. Draw takes place Duxford 17/10/1999 |
| | 2 | | Howzatt! | Mike Henry | Mike asked Charles Patterson about his friend, Jack Russell (cricketer & artist). Yes, Jack has painted a Blenheim which hangs in RAF Club in Piccadilly as does Len Fearnley's 'The First Blow'. |
| | 3 | Review | 'The Wartime News' | | Edited by Marilyn J Ward this quarterly mainly focuses on memories/experiences of service personnel. Address for purchases provided. |
| | 3 | | Airfield Research Group | | Formed 20+year ago by enthusiasts about all UK airfields, esp WWII ones. Journal 'Airfield Review' published 3 times annually. Anyone interested contact Ian Reid (Hon Gen Sec) in Grimsby. Address supplied. |
| | 3 | Review | Book Review. Bétheniville (Champagne) 1939-1940: XV, 40, 139, 103 and 501 Squadrons | | 'Bétheniville (Champagne) A French airfield occupied by the Royal Air Force during the Battle of France, 1939-1940' by Gillet Arnaud. 174 pages, 80 photos & many illustrations cover 40Sq & 139Sq flying Battles & BB recce in 'phoney war'; on 10/05/1940 501Sq arrive with Hawker Hurricanes & destroy 34 German a/c; 103Sq in Fairey Battles attack German troops in Luxemburg, Bouillon & Sedan. Privately published in 1999. |
| Sgt LR France 580854 | 3 | Wanted | Info re 211 Squadron asked for | | Mrs Doran of Seaton, Devon, asks for any information about her brother, Leslie Ronald France, 211Sq, who died 31/12/1940 & Buried at Alamein. Contact details given. GW: 31/12/1940, 211Sq, L1540. FTR, shot down in flames into sea by G.50 after bombing nr Valona. Sgt S Bennett, Sgt W Tunstall & Sgt L France KIA. On Alamein |

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| | | | | | <i>memorial.</i> |
| | 3 | | The Missing Blenheim Boy | | Ken Spells' name missing off caption to pic on 34/08 |
| | 3 | Report | Our Two Marathon Heroes | | Thanks to Andy Payne & Dermot Stapleton for running London Marathon & donation, esp as Dermot has health problems. |
| | 3 | Wanted | The Spitfire (Eastern Region) Society | Steve Beale | Steve (Sec of branch FAA) wants wartime photos of aircrew, signed if possible, for private collection. |
| | 3 | Report | Newly-formed Hurricane Society | | Ian Arnold expected 40 @ initial mtg – 100 people turned up! Committee elected. Will plan event for anniversary of Battle of France. |
| | 4 | Report | Operating the Blenheim | Graham Warner | Summary of 1998 ops with BB. Early 1998 was winter maintenance, Annual Inspection & Permit to Fly. GW details work undertaken by 'Smudge' Smith, Colin Swann, Barry Wright, James Gilmour, Bob Sparkes & Ian Arnold under John Romain. In May BB at Watton, North Weald, La Ferte Alais & Kemble. In June at Biggin Hill; spark-plug problem @ RAF Waddington when John Webb running-up engines. In July @ Flying Legends (Duxford), IAT @ Fairford then Wyton (refuel). August: to Sunderland, Swanton Morley (105Sq, 88Sq & 226Sq), Eastbourne & Rougham. Sept to Shepway & RAFA event @ Shoreham. Oct to Old Warden & Autumn airshow @ Duxford. All booked by Anna McDowell, John Romain's PA @ ARC. BB painted brown & green 1940 camouflage R3821 UX-N (82Sq) temporarily for photos by John Dibbs. Importance of £6,100 from Grand Flying Draw; monthly insurance is £1,817! Thanks to all who sold tickets: Derek Baden & Committee. |
| | 4 | Review | Roll of Honour 1939-1945. RAF Great Massingham | | Sister Laurence Mary invites members to buy Great Massington Roll of Honour for 18Sq, 107Sq, 90Sq, 98Sq, 342Sq & 169Sq mainly flying BBs, Bostons, Mosquitoes in WWII. Lists PoWs & their German camps; crews, a/c numbers & ops. 80 pages; £10. Good reference for researchers. Cheques to Sister Rosemary Ashworth |
| Sgt RC Hanna | 5 | Wanted | Calling all ex-254 Squadron Personnel | David Hanna | David is researching service history of uncle, Sgt Robert C Hanna, pilot, 254Sq flying BBs from RAF Dyce who died in collision (training or return from patrol) on 03/09/1940. Any info re Coastal Commands BB or 254Sq @ Dyce welcome. Address in Australia provided. <i>GW: 03/09/1940, N3529, 254Sq. Crashed while engaged in aerial tactics, collided with N3608, destroyed by fire. Sgt R Hanna & AC2 J Mangion killed. N3608 also DBF in same incident & crew: P/O J Laidlay, Sgt R Whiffen & AC1 D Campbell killed.</i> |
| | 5 | Report | Duxford Airshow 2 nd May 1999 | Mike Henry | Mike reports on Duxford airshow. Sunny; US a/c & jets noisy compared with Mercury, Merlin & propeller of B of B Flight. BB was half-painted in 82Sq livery! Lot of members in viewing enclosure & FAA colleagues. |
| | 5 | | Deadline Dates for Copy | | 25 th Oct for Winter issue (out end Nov) 25 th Jan for Spring issue (out end March) 25 th May for Summer issue (out end June) |
| | 5 | | Correction – Journal No 34 | Editor | 34/06 – under map line missing '...precipitous shore. We followed close on his heels and ..' |
| | 5 | | 'Night of the Hunter' | Mike Henry | Mike selling his limited edition of Gerald Poulson's 'Night of the Hunter' for £150 |
| | 5 | Letter | Remains of a | Kyriakos | Kyriakos appreciated article (34/06) about |

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| | | | Salvaged Blenheim in Athens Museum | Palouliau | Cephalonia island 1941 & sent photos of salvaged BB remains from Crete which in Athens Museum. Sends regards to members of 11Sq, 84Sq, 113Sq & 211Sq. Pics: salvaged BBB engine & fuselage |
| | 6 | Pics | I laughed at the Nearness of a 109! | Editor | 2 pics taken 1945 at Wunsdorf (British Zone, near Hanover) a former Luftwaffe base. a) 109 amongst other wrecked a/c; b) 109 fuselage in trees! |
| | 6 | Data | For Your Diary. Sites Booked for 1999 | | Lists 7 venues & 14 dates at which Blen Soc stall is booked. Ron Bramley & campervan may attend other shows to sell Draw tickets. |
| | 6 | Report | From our Junior Membership Secretary | Mick Ford | Good 1 st 1999 airshow at Duxford; Matthew Meyrick (Felixstowe) won years membership. 110Sq (City of York) ATC welcomed & thanks to 1249Sq for help @ Watton 03/05/1999. Reminder re quiz & picture competition. |
| | 6 | Poem | A World Apart | Tom Smith | Tom, from Armitage, wrote this at 1998 VE Day celebrations. Very moving poem about sacrifices of WWII made so future generation had a better life – asks what they would think if they returned to see society now. |
| | 7 | | Word, Words, Words (Hamlet) | Mike Ford | 15 x 15 crossword competition. Answers in by 02/09/1999; answers in Oct issue. |
| William Edwards; Leslie Edwards & James Edward. | 7 | Report | Family Lost Three out of Four Sons who Flew in Blenheims | Mike Henry | Summary of article in 'Mirror' 05/11/1998. P/O William Edwards, Obs, 40Sq left RAF Wyton in BB P4909 on 23/05/1940 to bomb Germany troops; hit by flak near Bethune, only Sgt J Beatie (WOp/AG) survived; CO W/Cdr J Llewellyn & William KIA; buried Saily-Labourse. F/O Leslie Edwards DFM, Obs, 60Sq, flying BB in Burma 23/06/1942died, body not found; named on Singapore Memorial. Sgt James Edwards (WOp/AG), aged 20, crashed @ Donald's Cleuch farm in Peebleshire, Scotland, 06/04/1943, having taken off from Ashbourne in poor weather. No survivors, but James buried in home village. Joseph & Lillian Edwards 4 th son, Noel Edwards, also in RAF; Nye Bevan (MP) asked Ministry of Air to send him home from Madagascar to console parents. |
| | 8 | | Trenchard's Brats could have done better than this! | | Amusing series of 6 cartoons showing interpretation of plant manager's original request by technical, projects, engineering, construction & works! |
| | 8-9 | Article | A Screaming Siren | Stanley Saunders | Stanley completed 3yrs as Engineer apprentice with Vicker's (Aviation), Weybridge; got Ordinary National Cert 1941, age 18. Then to General Aviation, Fair Oaks, rebuilding BB's MkI & MkIV; few beyond repair were cannibalised. Modification kits & drawings from Bristols, Filton, some minor (hydraulics, etc) but also: bomb sight equipment; 'gun tray' under BB 'belly' for 4 forward-firing machine guns (these added by RAF); 'Screaming siren' for use when diving on enemy target (or 'Anti-personnel device', like Stuka's noise). Stan details how it was crudely made with plywood, spindle & metal disc and mounted under a/c's nose with wooden 'handle' inside a/c turned 90° to activate siren by turning it to face forward so air spun metal 'turbine'. When test flown produced 'terrible piercing scream'. Complaints from 18 EFTS (Fair Oaks) & parent's of distressed babies! Use forbidden over UK after that. After Stan moved to |

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| | | | | | Progress Dept on airframe procurement for fuselage & tails; wings usually replaced. |
| | 9 | Letter | 1940 Letter from Brother | John Stanford-Davies | Excerpts from 06/1940 letter to John from brother who trained on Avro Tutors & now BBs. <i>Done 12½ hrs in 3 days; BBs lovely to fly; started with short-nose 'dual', but 1hr on long-nose. Beautifully light on control, amble ~200mph; practicing dives & climbing turns which safe at 2,000ft. Hard work as up 5.15, flying by 6am & do 2½hrs before breakfast. Ready to move to Squadron.</i> More written. He later flew Hampdens with 83Sq @ Scampton. Died 04/04/1941 returning from op. Unfortunately writer's name not given. |
| F/O HDS Dunford-Wood | 9 | Wanted | 21 Squadron – Help needed | Mark Hudson | Mark seeks info about F/O Dunford-Wood (pilot), 21Sq, whose BB (L9023) lost with all crew 08/06/1940 near Abbeville. Any AASF survivors who knew him please contact Mark. Address given. <i>GW: other crew Sgt E Jones (Obs), Sgt D MacLagen (WOp/AG)</i> |
| | 9 | Wanted | No 12 Squadron, 76 Wing | Robert F Wray | Father MT driver with 212Sq, 76 Wing @ Amifontaine/Guidnicourt in 08/1939. Left France 3 wks after Dunkirk via Brest. Later an AG, 58Sq & 7Sq Bomber Command. Survived war. Any info, photos, or sources about 1939 retreat (above places + Souge & Eschimines) wanted for family records. |
| | 9 | Report | The Gellik Memorial for 10 May 1940 | Betty George | Event continues to be well attended by generations of families, veterans of XVsq & Colour parties from 15Sq (R) & 12Sq. Six visitors from Canada (commemorating 1944 crashed Halifax) & 4 from Vraux. Next yr 60 th anniversary of Maastricht bridges disaster; intelligence mistakes found & now in our archives + those of XVsq & 12Sq. |
| G/Cpt E Shipley | 10-12 | Article | Snippets on Blenheims from my Log | G/Capt Edwin Shipley | 05/1941 ES was CTO @ OTU Hullavington. Posted Aden, usually 6 wks via Cape, after practice on BB with W/Cdr Perkins, Bicester, delivered Glen Martin Maryland from Overseas Delivery Flight, Kemble to Malta via Gibraltar (describes 13hr flight). Then lift in Sunderland to Egypt & troopship <i>Salween</i> via Red Sea to join 8Sq @ Aden (Khormaksar). Re-equipped with MkIV BBs which by sea from UK to Lagos where assembled, flown to Khartoum where collected by 8Sq. Describes first MkIV he collects & problems with plugs of Mercury XV during flight. Had to turn back over Eritrea mountains to crash land @ Asmara (described). Back to Khartoum; found BBs poorly assembled @ Takoradi so stayed 6 weeks to rectify this; spares available from HQME (& not so @ Aden). 04/1942 flew Admiral Halifax around stations in ME in BB; Massawa, Port Sudan where problems with BB carburettor (described). Then searching for mines in shipping lanes. 12/1942 flew detachment to 'sizeable' airbase @ Aiscia (spelt 'Aischa' in Jefford's <i>RAF Squadrons</i>). Summer 1942 Rommel to Alamein; panic in Cairo & Equipment branch dispersed spares; long-awaited spares finally arrived Aden from HQME. Early 1943 author posted CTO to No. 71 OTU @ Carthago on Red Sea, Sudan, with Tomahawks, Hurricanes, Harvards (for training) & Lysander. Flown to Carthago in Douglas CD3 &, on arrival, told was Station Commander as G/Cpt on leave! Describes |

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| | | | | | climate. 08/1943 offered choice of BBs by Grp Engineering Officer @ HQME; the BBs waiting @ Shandur (SE end Suez Canal) to be scrapped! He selected BB MkI L8631, flew back to Ismailia & LACs helped with repairs on Mercury VIII engine. Took CO to Haifa for his leave. Took out all armament gear to lighten BB & it could outfly Hurricane (but not Spitfire). Last flew L8631 04/1944 to 168 MU @ Heliopolis to swap with Anson. Unsure if HQME recalled it. Preferred MkI to MkIV. Interesting article & authors interest in technical side shines through. |
| | 11 | Obit | We Still Hear their Voices and See their Faces – to Absent Friends | | Recent deaths of Society members: Bernard Gibson Colin Handyside ('Col') died Queensland 04/02/1999 (Condolences to wife Joan); EW Baker (Member 208) died 1998; Stanley Lees ('Stan' Member 23; his friend will join in his place) requested contributions to Blenheim Appeal; Frank T Coxall, DFC ex 88Sq died 12/1998; Mr RR Orchard of Edinburgh died 09/02/1999 (condolences to son Peter) |
| | 11 | Obit | Air Vice-Marshall Nick Carter | | AVM W Nick Carter, CB, DFC, wartime bomber pilot & disaster consultant died 19/02/1999 in Australia, age 86. Obit from 'The Times' details his lucky escapes; @ 1937 Hendon Air Display in Hawker Hind; as Sgt pilot in BBs 11/05/1940 Maastricht bridges, 21Sq; 27/05/1940 attack German column @ Dunkirk; forced landings in BB. Then flew Halifaxes as Sq CO. |
| | 12 | | Come Blow Your Horn! | | Humorous tale about consequences of sticker in back window of car. |

Issue 34: March 1999

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|--------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Hugh George | Chairman since Society set up 1987, Hugh now passing reins to younger generation & thanks everyone for support |
| | 1 | Pic | The Society had great pleasure to ... | | Pic: Derek Baden handing £6,100 Grand Draw cheque to Graham Warner with Ted Sismore, Andrew Pierce, Mick Ford, Freddie Brown, Kevin Rowley, Betty & Hugh George |
| | 1 | Wanted | Request from New Zealand | Tony Prowse | Tony looking for memories of 219Sq during Battle of Britain, esp Sgt Henry Owen (56204), WOp/AG in BBs. Address given |
| | 2 | | Junior Membership News | Mick Ford | Welcome new junior members, esp 114Sq (Ruislip & Northwood) Air Cadets. 114Sq first to get BBs. Sir Ivor Broom & WC Hugh George will visit them. Take part in picture competition to win flight in Chipmunk! |
| Sgt George Kendall | 2 | Wanted | Calling ex-254 Squadron Members | Mrs FD Fenton | Mrs Fenton asks that anyone who knew her brother contact her. He was Sgt G Kendall, 563559, 254Sq, missing, presumed killed, 25/06/1940 in North Sea area. <i>GW: R3622 FTR. Shot down by Me 109s of JG 77 off Sola in sweep Stavanger to Bergen; P/O A Hill (pilot), Sgt G Kendall (Obs) & Sgt R Trowbridge KIA, commemorated @ Runnymede</i> |
| | 2 | | Father/Son Transportation | Editor | Correction 33/04: Top p4- father & son mixed up! Apologies |
| | 2 | Wanted | Another Teaser! | Mr W Bold | F/Lt W Bold (129929), ex-Navigator Instructor @ No5 AOS, Jurby, requests info |

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| | | | | | BB MkIV V6320. In 08/1941 returning Jurby from Ternhouse in poor weather Bold & crew ditched in sea. Picked up by Royal Navy. Info on V6320 ops before 08/1941 please. <i>GW: 09/08/1941, V6320, 5 AOS, lost on night NavEx in bad visibility, ditched in Peel Canal, Barrow-in-Furness; crew rescued: Sgt W Muir, Sgt W Bold & Sgt H Gable injured, trainee WOp/AG LAC A Campbell & LAC W Darragh injured, Ashley Campbell dying 10/08/1941 (buried Aberdeen)</i> |
| Sgt A Stevenson | 2 | Wanted | Info Wanted About: | From winter 1998 issue 'Intercom' | S/Ldr RE Leach, MBE, BA looking for Sgt A Stevenson, 114Sq, shot down over Holland 19/08/1940 in BB R3892. Other crew, Sgt KH Dobbs (Pilot, 19yrs) & Sgt SM Pillans (WOp/AG aged 18) died & recorded at Runnymede as 'crashed in sea'. In fact are buried on farm in Holland. <i>GW: FTR attack on Bremen oil refinery. Shot down by Uffz R Woick of JG 54. Stevenson baled out & POW. 'A Pillans' named, not SM</i> |
| | 2 | Wanted | And: | From winter 1998 issue 'Intercom' | On 22/05/1940 AC1 George Ross Pirie (WOp/AG, 626070) killed in 57Sq BB attacking advancing German columns. Buried Cambrai. Other crew P/O R Saunders (pilot) & Symons (Obs). Any info to 57 Squadron Assn. or Jacqueline Stewart (address given). <i>GW: BB L9184, FTR recce from Hawkinge to Arras, shot down near Harcourt. Sgt S Simmons, Obs (not Symons).</i> |
| | 2 | | Diverse Images Latest Models | | From 01/03/1999 Diverse Images releasing new models: de Havilland Mosquito MkIV bomber; Bristol Beaufighter MkIV Nightfighter; Bristol Beaufort MkI Torpedo Bomber; Fairey Battle AASF version. |
| | 2 | Wanted | 18 Squadron Blenheim Crash in France | | French researcher seeks info re BB MkIV crash on 16/05/1940 in France. Crew: Sgt TJ Mongey (pilot, who died); P/O JR Whelan (Obs); AB Brown (WOp/AG) who both survived. Info via J Jackson (address given). <i>GW: 17/05/1940, L9187, 18Sq, FTR. Damaged by Me 109s nr Sedan; Sgt T Mongey (Obs) KIA, P/O J Whelan (pilot) wounded but crash-landed, LAC Brown (WOp/AG) uninjured & returned. L9187 SOC 20/05/1940)</i> |
| | 3 | Pics | Blenheim Society's 'Adopted Sons & Daughters' | | 2461Sq (Sawston) ATC 30/11/1998 @ presentation with Guest of Honour W/Cdr Hugh George, Betty George (Blen Soc Chair & Hon Sec) @ Duxford. 'Best NCO Trophy' presented to Cpl Luanda Matthews-Jones. |
| | 3 | Wanted | A Call from Greece | Kirk Palouliau | Greek pilot, Kirk, is researching Blenheims & crews, esp info on Sgt JH Spires, in 235Sq during Battle of Britain. Also pic of Obs position inside BB's nose. Address given. |
| Sgt Albert Stanley Prince | 3 | Wanted | News from Canada Sgt Albert Prince, first of 10,000 | Editor | On 04/09/1939 first (of 10,000) Canadians died serving in RAF 2Group. Sgt Albert Stanley Prince, pilot in 107Sq, in first WWII attack in BB of warships off Wilhelmshaven (see 37/06)Nanton Lancaster Society & Air Museum, Alberta, Canada, commemorating 60 th anniversary & would like info about other 107Sq members or relatives. |
| P/O Barry Davidson | 3 | | Barry Davidson Memorial Blenheim | | Barry Davidson, Alberta-born pilot, 18Sq RAF, crash-landed France 1939 in BB & POW for 5yrs. Was 'Scrounger' in 'Great Escape' from Stalag 3. Davidson family support Society's restoration plans. Dedication is planned for summer 2000. |

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| William Fallon | 3 | | 113 Squadron Enquiry | Mr D Read | Mr Read requests info about William Fallon, 113Sq (02/1942 – 08/1943) in Asia. |
| | 3 | | Makes you think! | | Comment about bravery of Guy Gibson |
| | 4 | | Hit by our own Bomb! | Les Patrick, ex-59 Squadron | Les Patrick (WOp/AG), Harry Siddell (pilot) & Obs (in pic, but un-named) of 59Sq on detachment @ Detling 06-07/1941 leading vic 3 BBs attacking ships off Dunkirk. Flying @ 50ft & under fire pilot mistakenly pushed controls (heading down) @ same time as 9 sec delay bombs dropped. Like speed boat until bombs hit waves, bounced & push a/c up! Hit BB below Les' turret. Struggled back to Detling. P/O McHenry, starboard BB, described above. Very amusingly written! Pic: Les & Obs pointing to damage. |
| | 4 | Poem | Three Cheers for the Man on the Ground | E Sykes (1942) | Moving poem about essential, but overlooked, role of ground staff (with response by editor) |
| | 5 | Review | Book Review 'Bristol Blenheim' by Theo Boiten | | History of Blenheim from development to role in Far East. 215 photos, many previously un-published. £25 |
| | 5 | Review | 'Jack's Wartime RAF Exploits' by Jack Bennett | | Jack joined RAF end 1939 as flight mechanic. In XV Sq working on Blenheims, then Wellingtons & Stirling on 214Sq. Lots of stories & change to get groundcrew perspective. £9. |
| Bill Evans | 5 | Pic | | | Pic of Bill Evans, New Zealand, sent in by his daughter, Monica Brodie (see obit 34/11) |
| | 5 | Wanted | Another Blenheim Book from Theo | | Theo Boiten working on 3 rd Book re BBs & crews. Welcomes anecdotes, personal stories of service with BBs, photos of a/c, air/ground crews, raids, battle damage, etc. from Society members. Address provided |
| | 5 | | Thank you kind Sir! | | Extract from Leonard Cheshire's 'Bomber Pilot' about bravery of Blenheim & Coastal Command crews flying zero feet in daylight! |
| | 6 | Article | Sir Ivor is Reminded of an 'Op' Long Ago | | Asked by Makis Panas, Ivor Broom said involved in RAF attack on Argostoli Harbour, Cephalonia on 13/12/1941. Six crew involved: P/O Broom (pilot); Sgt Curry (Obs); Sgt Kerr (WOp/AG). Other pilots: P/O Len Williamson, Sgt Nosedo, Sgt Lee, Sgt Crossley & Sgt Gracey. Sgts Lee (ships explosion) & Gracey (low flying & hit harbour wall) FTR. Makis, in school @ time, said 2 ships sunk. Long quote by P/O Len Williamson (from Tony Spooner's book 'Clean Sweep') describing incident in detail. Sir Ivor presented pic of Blenheim to Argostoli Museum, Cephalonia. GW: 107Sq, Z7800 crew Sgt A Lee (pilot), Sgt R Haggatt (Obs) & Sgt A Commeau (WOp/AG, RCAF) became POWs. 107Sq Z7368 Sgt R Gracie (pilot), F/Sgt A McLean (Obs) & F/Sgt J Calderwood (WOp/AG) KIA. Re-buried Phaleron War Cemetery, Athens, after 1953 earthquake in Cephalonia. |
| | 6 | Pic | George Rushton & 105 Squadron | | 33/04 asked if any 105Sq ex-aircrew knew George, groundcrew 08/1940 – 10/1941. Pic of 11 recruits @ Padgate 02/1940, including George. |
| | 7 | Letter | Highest Scoring 2 Group Blenheim | S/Ldr HG Brittain | Re: 33/03. Brittain joined 82Sq 04/1940 & flew P4839 in 21 or 30 ops by 10/1940 (& 39 times in non-op flights). Most as pilot with Sgt Harbord (Obs) & Sgt Lister (WOp/AG). Editor adds: history of 13 OTU (by Hugh Wheeler) shows R3684 crashed on take-off @ Bicester 01/10/1942. P4839 crashed |

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| | | | | | 13/06/1943 @ Hutton Cranswick (crew OK). |
| | 7 | Letter | Highest Scoring 2 Group Blenheim | S/Ldr Fry | S/Ldr Fry flew 2 non-ops in R3772 with 110Sq. But in R3684, on 14/04/1941, attacked convoy off Hook of Holland. On 15/04/1941 exercise @ Woodbridge, but on 16/04/1941 with full fuel & bombs set off for Heligoland but crashed on take-off (detailed how). Cockpit hatch jammed; rescue delayed as oleo leg had 'carved through one of the bombs' & dangerous until engine cool! Crew suddenly found strength to open hatch! |
| | 7 | Report | Blenheim IV and V Crew Reunion | Bill Burberry | After 55yrs, on 22/06/1998 2 of 3-man IV-V crew met. Tim Denny (authority on essential oils!) flew to UK from Tasmania. We'd met Upwood, 17 OTU, with Bob Molesworth (pilot) mid 1941; joined 114Sq, West Raynham (see 24/07) & did 27 BB ops together in 1943 in UK & N Africa (& more in Bostons). Bill did all his 72 ops with Bob as his pilot. Bob lives Victoria, Aust, breeding racehorses. (Ed adds his own ops record: 42 ops with 14 different pilots) |
| | 8 | Pic | Duxford September 1998 Blenheim Boys | | Standing in front of Blenheim: Dickie Rook, Sir Ivor Broom, Ron Bramley, Len Archer, Les Patrick, Bill Bagguley, ? , Jack Bennett, Hugh George, Pat Stapleton, Mike Henry. Help with missing name please. |
| | 8 | | Oulton's Evergreen Oak | Jim Moore | In 1994 Mr & Mrs Bolton Agnew funded plaque in Oulton Church in memory of those served/died @ RAF Oulton. Mrs Alison Shaw (Parish Council Chair) initiated planting of oak where 1944/5 runway crossed Oulton Street, funded by Oulton Memorial Assn. Wording of temp plaque given. On 01/12/1998 Mrs Shaw wrote to Jim (who spoke at both above ceremonies) to say funding now available for permanent brass plaque for oak tree. |
| | 9 | Letter | Blenheim Overload Fuel Tank | Ken Garrett | Re 33/08. Fairly technical, but interesting, explanation of why steady continual pumping of petrol by Obs from reserve to main tank was important. Ken says likely to avoid vapour building up in reserve tank & explains possible consequences of this. |
| | 9 | Letter | Blenheim Overload Fuel Tank - 1941 | Sgt (later S/Ldr) FCG Fry | With 110Sq took same route as Hodson (see 33/08) ferrying BB MkIV to Palestine. Left Portreath 13/06/1941 &, as Obs, operated semi-rotary hand-pump. No instruction ref steady rate. Petrol ran out over Rock of Gibraltar, but pilot landed on racecourse. BB damaged so slept in stables for week! 20/06/1941 flew with 6 BBs to Malta. Then Mersa Matruh, Abusueir to join 45Sq @ Agir for ops in Syria with Sgt Ken Hodson! |
| | 9-10 | Letter | Overload Fuel Tank (Cont'd) | Tommy Thompsom | Edited version of long letter. Confirm fuel pumped into outer tanks when pump working. In 1997 TT collected box of Pilots Notes & Maintenance (from Records Office @ Kew) to compile genuine Pilots Notes for John Romain. By memory feed went to outer tank & topped up after enough fuel used. On 23/08/1941 test flew 18Sq new long-range (LR) MkIV Z9661 fitted with 50 gal LR tank beside pilots seat with pump handle available to pilot & Obs. In end flew 107Sq BB untested to Gibraltar. Describes flight & problems with a/c. After 2½hrs, when Outer 94-gal tanks allowed, changed to 140 gal Inner tanks & started to pump 50 gals from |

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| | | | | | 'extra' tanks to Outers. The pump didn't work. Obs re-calculated route, distance, fuel etc & politics of where best/safest to land (Spanish very pro-German). Chose sandy beach south Oporto near Aviero. Describes burning a/c, signalling distress & rescue by Portuguese pilots & Royal Navy, arriving Gibraltar 2 weeks later. <i>GW: 27/08/1941, 18Sq, Z7678 crew: Sgt J Thompson (pilot), Sgt N Pearson (Obs), Sgt R Martin (WOp/AG) force landed San Jacinto.</i> |
| | 10 | Pic | How did we Survive this Prang? | | Pic: remains 110Sq BB MkIV L9310, crashed 07/10/1940 on return from raid Boulogne harbour (see Mike Henry's 'Air Gunner' p57) |
| | 11-12 | | An Agricultural Operation | Bill Gatling | From a WOp/AG's perspective Bill describes returning from a successful attack on airfield in Holland when one engine failed. Expected to land in sea, but end up in field of beetroot! Amusing description of a very lucky incident. |
| | 11 | Obit | We still Hear their Voices and See their Faces | | Recent deaths of Society members: Norman Reeve, died of stroke after op; Tom Claridge, ex-614Sq, FE, died early 1998; Albert Henry Morton, been @ Vraux, John Morton (+ wife) & sister Dorothy are Soc Members (John helped get pics of Queen, etc, signed for Vraux museum); Bill Evans, ex-101Sq & 110Sq, died NZ 22/11/1998, age 86, pic 34/05 (info from DAW McFarlane); Olive Griffiths (wife John Griffiths, mother of Barbara, all Soc Members); Ken Irwin, ex-XVSq, died heart attack 03/01/1999 (he'd set up ACA branch in Devon); Mrs R Trevers, member 623. Condolences to families. |
| | 12 | | Them were the Days | | Comment re changing meaning of words |

Issue 33: November 1998

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
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| | 1 | Report | President's Message | Ivor Broom | Welcomes the involvement of younger 'associate' members in running Society, on whom it's future depends |
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Hugh George | Can't afford for events to be run at a loss so need to adapt to changing composition of membership. Thanks to all volunteers & donations to rescue Flying Legends Airshow. |
| | 1 | Report | The Gellik Ceremonies | | Blen Soc represented at Gellik ceremony by Hon Secretary & daughter Amanda. Wreath laid. XVSq Colour Party; 12Sq unable to attend as in ME/Gulf. |
| | 2 | | Apology | | 32/04: Betty George's name omitted |
| | 2 | Report | Our Generous Members | | Saved from cash crises from Duxford as shortfall met by member's donations, esp Andrew Payne £741 from Marathon run (see 31/03) |
| | 2 | Wanted | Schoolboys Visit Scene of Crashed Blenheim | George Stebbings | BB MkIV, N6165, of 101Sq crashed @ Rickinghall Superior (S of Thetford) on 07/03/1940. F/O SC Mottram (pilot) & Sgt EC Maundsley (Obs) were both killed. Cpl Richard Hartland (WOp/AG) rescued by 16yr old 'Snaps' Rush who cut him free with pocket knife. 10-yr old George also saw crash & asks if anyone knows Stanley Rush, who lives in London, so can erect memorial & mention his bravery. |

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| Sgt Douglas Allen Walters , 642945 | 2 | Wanted | Anyone Remember Douglas Walters? A WOp/AG with 59 Squadron Coastal Command | Gerry Walters | Douglas Walters killed 09/09/1940 on raid over Cherbourg. Buried with crew in Le Vast Church cemetery. Gerry welcomes any info from 59Sq survivors. Address given. Pic: Douglas Walters in uniform <i>GW: 20/09/1940, R3635, 59Sq, FTR sortie to Cherbourg. P/O K Palmer (pilot), Sgt E Wright (Obs) & Sgt D Walters (WOp/AG) buried Le Vast churchyard, Manche. NB: different date.</i> |
| | 2 | Wanted | Does 'The First Blow' hang in the RAF Club? | Len Fearnley | Len (author 'Blenheim Odyssey') never had acknowledgement from RAF Club about print 'The First Blow', depicting BB, which he donated. Could Soc member visiting RAF Club check if it's displayed? |
| Sgt Ralph Cyril Dell | 3 | Wanted | Help – Cyril Dell of 614 Squadron | Bob Yarnell | Sgt Ralph Cyril Dell ('Mark'), Obs in 614Sq 08/1942 – 1944, now in Home where Bob volunteers. Does anyone remember 'Mark'? Contact given |
| P/O Harold Hough | 3 | Wanted | Information Required re Harold BL Hough, Ex 600 Squadron | James Hough | Harold joined RAF @ Northolt 06/1940. In 09/1940 lost in L1111 on night patrol & baled out over Basingstoke. To 54 OTU, Church Fenton in 1941 & killed 16/08/1941 as F/O Instructor, age 23. Any info/photos please to James Hough. Address given <i>GW: 08/09/1940, L1111, 600Sq, crashed nr Odiham. Crew P/O H Hough, Sgt E Barnard & Sgt J Smith baled out safely</i> |
| | 3 | Data | Highest Scoring 2 Group Blenheim | Mike Henry | Michael Bowyer's 'History of 2 Group' appendices show only 4 BBs of 2 Group flew 60 or more sorties. R3772 flew 64; P4839 & R3684 flew 61 each; L9390 flew 60. R3772 joined 110Sq 25/05/1940. Mike had 6 sortie in R3772 from 23/08/1940 to St Omer, Deauville, Emden. Dunkirk, Boulogne. Also R3684 twice, but non-op. |
| Sgt AA Stanley (Obs) 520757 | 3 | Wanted | Help! 82 Squadron Query | Mr M Jensen | Ask if ex-82Sq Obs, Sgt AA Stanley is still alive &, if so, where he lives. |
| George Ross Pirie (626070) | 3 | Wanted | Calling Ex 57 Squadron Members | Mrs Jacqueline Stewart | Jacqueline seeks info about father, George Pirie, 57Sq, KIA 22/05/1940 (before she was born) attacking German columns. Any info from ex-57Sq please. Address given <i>GW: L9184, 57Sq FTR from recce sortie Hawkinge to Arras, shot down nr Harcourt. P/O R Saunders (pilot), Sgt S Simmons (Obs) & AC1 G Pirie (WOp/AG) KIA</i> |
| | 3 | | Cambodia's Manchester | | W/Cdr Stevenson's daughter, Fiona, sent him card from Cambodia with stamp bearing pic of Avro Manchester. Given county's poverty & history, why? Pic of stamp. |
| Sgt WF Richards , 751431 | 4 | Wanted | Calling 18 Squadron Survivors | Mr WR Richards | Mr Richard's asks if anyone remembers his Dad, Bill Richards, 18Sq, 'presumed dead' 02/06/1941 after surviving 3 shipping ops (last in BB 9192 on 27/05/1941). Address given. Pic: Bill & 16 others @ Hamble, 1939. <i>GW: L9192, FTR. Shot down attacking shipping off Ems/Weser by Me 109s; crew F/Lt I Mead (pilot), Sgt C Ashcroft (Obs), Sgt W Richards (WOp/AG) KIA, commemorated Runnymede Memorial</i> |
| | 4 | Wanted | Calling Ex-Ground Crew 105 Sqd August 1940 to October 1941 | George Rushton | George (978482) wishes to hear from anyone who served with him in 105Sq @ RAF Watton, Bodney or Swanton Morley (when Hughie Edwards got VC). Address given |
| | 4 | | Don McCleod Re-visits Belgium | Don McCleod | 1940 Don shot down over Belgium, injured but saved by local people. Revisits site & people regularly. |

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| | 4 | | Creation of an 'Airmen's Chapel' | | Gov funded 'Redundant Churches Commission' ensures small, unused St Nicholas Church @ Feltwell is weatherproof. Bomber Airfield Society (Patron: Lord Sandhurst DFC; Vice Patrons AM Sir Ivor Broom & G/Cpt Broadbent & supported by late G/Cpt Lord Cheshire) asks for donations to convert to Airmen's Chapel for families of WWII airmen &, eventually, all lost airmen. |
| | 4 | | AASF Ceremonies in 1999 | | French has asked for change of date of AASF ceremonies to avoid Bastille Day. |
| | 5 | Report | Great Massingham Roll of Honour | Mike Henry | At dedication ceremony, Swaffham, organised by Sister Laurence Mary, Mike met his former pilot, W/Cdr Jack Evans. Sir Ivor Broom spoke of Blenheim experiences in Malta & FE. Only 3 of original 107Sq crew returned to UK in 1942. Sister Laurence spent 6yrs tracing all RAF serving @ Great Massingham to compile Roll of Honour of dead. 18Sq & 107Sq flew BBs. Rev Martin Nockles blessed Roll of Honour, followed by Lancaster fly-pass. £237 collected for RAF Benevolent Fund. Pics: Sister Laurence Mary holding Roll of Honour (Eastern Counties Newspaper Ltd); Lancaster a/c over St Andrew's Church; Sir Ivor Broom speaking in front of list of 107Sq's aircrew lost @ Great Massingham, incl Editor's pilot & Obs (R Greenhill & Smith) & Canadian WOp/AG (Whidden) who took Mike's place. |
| | 5 | | Extracted from a list of Aircrews of 107 Squadron for October 1943! | Mike Henry | Mike flew as WOp/AG with pilot Sq/Ldr FH Blair & Obs P/O JE Major ! |
| | 6 | Pics | Car from MkI Nose! | | At 07/1998 Duxford Airshow partly restored nose of L6739 (night-fighter 23Sq, 1940). a) pic showing 'Smudge' Smith's work; b) pic of electric 'car' into which nose converted by Bristol engineer Ralph Nelson using Austin 7 chassis; ran car 1947-1954 7 got 50-60mls from one charge of batteries. 'Car' donated to British Air Museum. |
| | 6 | Wanted | A Knowledgeable Sleuth Required | David Williams | David writes about mystery of T2383, shot down nr Derna 20/04/1941 with Sq code KQ. Pic of T2383 in diaries of General Bianchi, ex-Commander 155 th Gruppo of Regia Aeronautica. 'Air Britain Serials' T2383 with 55Sq until SOC 21/04/1941 & Sqdns had single letter code. 'Squadron Codes' (Peter Lewis. Putnam) show KQ for 502Sq, 13 OTU & 204 OCU. None relevant to T2383, so mystery remains. |
| | 7 | Pics | Blenheim Society at Watton | | 3 pics of Watton Airshow 05/1998. a) Rene Bysouth & Hugh George, b) Bill Burberry & Hon Sec, c) Rene & Betty George |
| | 7 | Wanted | 40 th Anniversary Appeal St Clement Dane Central Church of the Royal Air Force | | St Clement Danes funded by donations (not MoD). Built by Christopher Wren, completed 1682, gutted by fire 1942 (air raid) until 1958 appeal & restored & re-consecrated by Queen as Central Church of the RAF in memory of 125,000 men & women who died serving in RAF & are recorded in Book of Remembrance. 1998 is 40 th anniversary. Despite support of RAF Central Fund, £350,000 is needed for repairs. Cheques to 'St Clement Danes Church' @ Strand, London, WC2R 1DH |
| | 7-8 | | The Blenheim Society | | Blen Soc Members & friends to Vraux |

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| | | | in France 60 years on | | &Gellik where XVSq & 114Sq based with BB (with 139Sq & 40Sq); 88Sq based @ Mourmelon le Grand. 1999 is 60 th anniversary of AASF landing in France. Details plans for this; £50 deposit needed. |
| F/O RBGE Clark | 8 | | Bravery of a Deceased Officer not to be Recognised | | Quote from Routine Orders No A32: officer must be alive when recommended for DFC. On 11/06/1940 F/O Clark a leader of section attacking enemy in Seine area. A following a/c collided with his, lost control & crashed with all crew. Clark's a/c damaged & he ordered his 2 crew to jump & both landed inside Allied lines. A/c lost control & crashed before pilot could leave. Three wks before, although wounded, his piloting had saved crew. This illustrates many brave acts that went unrecognised in WWII. <i>GW: 11/06/1940, L9024, XVSq, FTR from raid, collided with L8851, starboard engine detached. F/O R Clarke (pilot) ordered crew to bale out, then lost control & unable to follow & KIA. Sgt T Maloney (Obs) & Sgt B Piff (WOp/AG) parachuted safely. L8851, 15Sq, FTR, collided with formation leader L9024 in cloud, losing port wing. P/O R Werner, Sgt M Jones & Sgt R Spencer KIA.</i> |
| | 8-9 | | Blenheim Overload Fuel Tank - 1941 | S/Ldr Ken Hodson | After tour ops with 107Sq ferried BB MkIV to ME leaving Portreath on 16/06/1941, via Gibraltar & Malta to Abusuer. Overload tanks fixed to bomb bay with manual pump in cockpit nose, starboard side opp Obs table. This 5" diameter with wooden handle upwards. About 4hrs into long flights Obs turned seat forward & pumped back/forth for hour! In 1944 talking with Obs both agreed must keep steady rate of pumping or engine performance effected! Now believes fuel went from overload to main tank. Asks if erratic pumping would effect engine & why told steady pumping so important. In Med in poor visibility flew through Italian battle fleet below deck level – to surprise of all. Were 1 of 3 a/c – does anyone else remember this? |
| | 9 | Pic | | | Blenheim Day 22/09/1998; 70 attended; tour of Blenheim. David Shlugman brought BB wreckage from Suffolk to be identified. Pic with Freddy Brown, Mike Henry, Ron Scott, Graham Warner, Ivor Broom, Betty George, Hugh George, Andrew Pierce, Pat Stapleton. Four of 1997 prize winners did their flights on 11/10/1998 @ Duxford Air Display. |
| | 10 | Notice | Lunch and AGM 11am 10 th April 1999 at The Wyllyotts Centre, Potters Bar | | Have found new venue for AGM which meets all criteria. Details travel directions. Meet 11am, finish 3.30. More a lunch-time reunion with AGM & talk thrown in! |
| | 10 | Data | Grand Flying Draw 1998 | | Lists 8 winners and 2 reserves of the 1998 Draw |
| | 10 | Poem | The Summer of Forty-One | | On 15/05/1994 Jim Moore read poem @ dedication of memorial @ former RAF Oulton. It's dedicated to Blenheim crews who flew from Oulton in 1941 'Skimming over trees, hedges, waves & crops' at nought feet. |
| | 10 | | Visitors to RAF Museum Hendon | | Gerry Page of Beaufighter Assn offers to lecture & guide any Blen Soc members who visit Hendon RAF Museum. Contact details. |
| | 10-11 | Pics | | | Pics of two model BB by Gary Wenko (US friend of Andrew Pierce); one had Japanese marking & other Italian!! |

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| | 11 | | We Still Hear their Voices and See their Faces – to Absent Friends | | Recent deaths of Society Members: Joyce Brooker (was on Soc Committee with husband Jim); Sgt Aubrey Lancaster (ex-PoW, 235Sq); Phil Barrett (ex-59Sq, died 06/1998); Stephen Sheridan (died 15/08/1998, ex-236Sq; nephew Paul Messer now an RAF fitter); James Luck (with Westair Ltd, died 31/08/1998 after heart op); AVM Dick Ubee, CB, AFC died age 95 after 40yrs in RAF mostly in FE & ME, & RAE Farnborough in 1930s. Was test pilot. In 03/1939 became CO 60Sq as equipped with BBs in India. Then Air Officer Commanding 2 Group, 2 nd Tactical Air Force in Germany. Retired 1958. Wore black eye patch. |
| | 11-12 | | Operating the 'Blenheim | Graham Warner | Summary of events in 1997. 05/1997: 'The Fighter Meet' @ North Weald (poor weather/turnout so unpaid); RAF Coningsby for 29Sq reunion (given £800); Air Fete, Mildenhall (cancelled last minute). 06/1997: Spitfire Show @ Duxford (unpaid, in lieu of hanger rent); missed airshows in Ireland due to weather. 07/1997: IAT @ Fairford cancelled Blenheim & Catalina; Flying Legends @ Duxford (incl photo-sortie for 'Aeroplane Monthly' competition, see 31/06). 08/1997: RAFA show, Shoreham; photo-sortie @ RAF Cosford. 09/1997: Shepway; 'Battle of Britain' show @ Biggin Hill; Jersey & Guernsey (first time). 10/1997: Autumn airshow @ Duxford. Then routine winter maintenance. Thanks to Team @ Duxford, led by John Romain, 6 work full time & squeeze BB into spare time. Also thanks to pilots John R & John Webb. Thanks to those selling Draw tickets, esp Anthony Edwards; £5,000 raised & presented by Ron Scott in Dec (£2 882 for insurance x 2mths + rest to fuel bill). Also £1,441 from 'Blenheim Dance' in Oct, which paid 1 month Insurance. Fuel is £4,544pa. If Member donate to specifically to 'Blenheim Appeal' make this clear or goes in 'general fund' of Society. |
| | 12 | | Was His Face Red! | | Anecdote about dispute between a battleship's captain and a lighthouse! |

Issue 32: June 1998

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
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| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Hugh George | Apologies received for hiccups with AGM. Before all money raised went to Blenheim; now have Fund Raising Sub-Committee for Society (for ads, admin, stalls, shows, etc) unless specifically told for Blenheim Fund. Pays tribute to John Romain, Graham Warner & team for keeping BB flying. Pic: Guest speaker AVM DA Bailey ('Bill') CB, CBE & Chair Central Committee RAFA; Mrs Bailey, Sir Ivor Broom (President) & Ted Sismore (Vice-Chair). |
| | 2 | Wanted | Bill Evans Asks for Help | Monica Brody | Monica's father, Bill Evans, (in New Zealand) wants to trace 101Sq friend F/Sgt Charles Dunncliffe (later G/Cpt commanding Abingdon). They last met 1947. Ad in 'Oxford Mail' showed Mrs Dunncliffe lived with Mrs Vera Morris ~1942/43 and refers to Frank Hickman (WOp/AG). Anyone serving 101Sq |

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| | | | | | or 110Sq 1938 & 1939 pls contact Bill via Monica whose address in Scotland given. |
| | 2 | Wanted | Memories of RAF Catfoss? | Mr RMA Robinson | Mr Robinson researching RAF Catfoss, East Yorks, home No 2 Coastal OTU 01/10/1940 to 15/02/1944. Used BBs Mk1 & MkIV. Would welcome any info. Address given. |
| | 2 | Wanted | Blenheim L8828 of 40 Squadron | John Prooi | 40Sq L8828 attacked by ME 109s on 10/05/1940. Crashed in North Sea killing F/O PJH Rowan 36133 (pilot, buried Rozenburg); Sgt G Beardwood, 526936 (Obs. Buried Sth Gravenzande); Cpl TFS Clark, 535562 (WOp/AG, buried Rockanje, Netherlands). John would welcome info. Address given. <i>GW: see page 4 below.</i> |
| | 2 | Letter | A Treble Victory | Norman McLeod | Norman wrote to Bill Burberry that, @ Duxford, Sir Laurence Sinclair said he'd worked with General Spaatz on Joint Staff prior to Torch. Met again 04/02/1943 (see 326 Wing ORB) in N Africa & Sinclair explained problems with BB MkVs. Made wager that for every darts game Spaatz lost he'd give Sinclair a Boston. Three darts games lost & first Boston reached 18Sq from Maison Blanc on 09/02/1943. Does this confirm a rumour? |
| | 2 | Wanted | Not Much to Go On, But! | Alexia Daniel | Alexia ask if anyone knows 'Jock' Boyd who crewed Blenheims. Squadron, dates, etc unknown but he married Ellie Knight when stationed @ Portsmouth & believed to have gone to South Africa. Address given |
| | 2 | Letter | Comment from South America | Walter Robinson | Re: 'Tailpiece' (30/08) – Walter posted 82Sq @ Watton from 13 OTU about 07/1941. Flew from Bodney & encloses relevant pages of Log Book (showing 11 flights between 07-12/08/1941, including ops on 12/08/1941 & 14/08/1941). Walter to India with 82Sq 03/1942 & converted to Vultee Vengeance to dive-bomb Arakan front. |
| | 2-3 | Letter | Two Encounters (Issue No. 28) | Bill Evans | Re: Douglas Cooper article (28/04). Betty George put Bill in touch with Douglas. Of 9 BBs on 10/01/1940 Bill was No 2 to S/Ldr Doran who, seeing ME110s, dives sea level & we (pilot P/O PV Arderne, Bill Evans & WOp/AG LAC Tippet (later DFM)) lost formation. Badly damaged by ME110; undercarriage collapsed at base. Black smoke as Sgt Hanne, Sgt Williams & AC Vick crashed into North Sea. Flew x 4 with Douglas Cooper. On 06/06/1997 Wolfgang Falk (Luftwaffe pilot) visited Douglas @ Strabane, N Ireland, & Bill phoned from NZ. Pic: G/Cpt Brian Freeman, Wolfgang Falk & Douglas Cooper 06/1997, N Ireland. <i>GW: 110Sq P4859 MkIV, took off Wattisham @ 10.15; FTR, shot in North Sea by Me 110s of ZG 76. Sgt J Hanne (pilot), Sgt G Williams (Obs) & AC1 E Vick (age 19) KIA & commemorated Runnymede. 110Sq, N6213 MkIV, u/c sheared off on landing Wattisham. P/O P Arderne (pilot), Sgt A Rook (Obs) & LAC J Tippet uninjured. (in article Bill Evans Obs, not A Rook)</i> |
| | 3 | | Meeting Old Friends – and Stirring the Waters! | Ken Garrett | For first time in 50yr Ken met Stuart King (author 'Hope has Wings') in London & other RAF friend from Normandy. After leaving RAF Stuart & 2 others paid £200 each to buy 2 nd -hand Gemini, which they crashed in Africa! With insurance built up fleet 32 aircraft, became Man Dir of MAF. They often |

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| | | | | | built own airstrips in bush & jungle. Asked for info about 258Sq (New Zealand) with Hurricanes who in Malay peninsular 11/1941. Ken believes 258Sq driven out of Malaysia to Java & Sumatra. Ken wants news of 258Sq friends. |
| | 3 | Wanted | 'Dickie' Leven – Help Wanted | Evie Saunders | S/Ldr Richard Leven died 1997. Evie editing his manuscript & requests any info & photos of Dickie &/or Mike Nolan (his Obs). They were in Malta (107Sq), also with 114Sq, 101Sq, 876Sq. Evie's address given |
| | 3-4 | | Pilot Shortage | Ken Garrett | Re S/Ldr Camp's comments (31/04) about replacement pilots. Ken posted from XV Sq (15Sq) @ Wyton to 258Sq New Zealand (Hurricanes) @ Kenley (04/1941) where replacement pilot told him that it 'takes all his time' to fly Hurricane, never mind fight with it. Within a week he was killed! Only pilots that survived 4 weeks gain experience & had reasonable prospect of survival. |
| | 4 | | Urgent Request to the RAF | HA van Lith | Dutch ask for RAF help as German paratroops dropped near Hague & Ypenburg airfield. Successful Dutch opposition & airfield recaptured, but 12 40Sq BBs already on way from RAF Wyton & attacked. One BB (L8828) crashed in sea & bodies washed ashore. 2 nd BB (L8831) destroyed near Wateringen & crew buried The Hague. P6901 crewed by Sgt Rob Robertson (pilot), Sgt Francis Checkley (Obs) & AC Jack Webster (WOp/AG) hit & caught fire. Seen passing in flames over Voorburg & crashed Rodelaan (site now 'De Mantel' home for aged). Webster rescued by villagers, to St Antonius hospital then spent war as PoW. <i>GW: 10/05/1940, P6901, 40Sq, FTR. Shot down nr Ypenburg; Sgt A Robertson (pilot), Sgt F Checkley (Obs) KIA & buried Voorburg. AC1 J Webster (WOp/AG) injured & PoW.</i> <i>L8828: shot down in sea off Rotterdam by Me 110s. P/O P Rowan, Sgt G Beardwood, & Cpl T Clark KIA; bodies washed ashore & buried Rozenburg, South Gravenzande & Rockanje, respectively.</i> <i>L8831: Shot down nr The Hague. Sgt I Thomas, Sgt V Spurr, LAC H Bridson (age 20) KIA. Buried Westduin Gen Cemetery, The Hague.</i> |
| | 4 | Data | Committee for 1998 | | Lists names of President, 4 officers, BAM rep & 8 committee members |
| | 4 | | Remembrance Sunday 8 th Nov 1998 | | Jeanne Gibb's number given for tickets |
| | 4-5 | | From Blenheim to Beaufighter to Lancaster via Manchester | | Extract from W/Cdr Guy Gibson's Log Book (sent in by Ron Bramley & Bill Baguley). In 29Sq 1940, based Coningsby, flew BB Mk1 L1303, L1327, L1502. 21/11/1940 Guy flew to Cardiff 'to be married!'. 1997 Blen Soc invited to 29Sq Reunion & Families Day & BB flew in. 28Sq now has Tornados! |
| | 5 | Article | Night Stimulation | Geoff Parnell | Geoff describes how, as trainee gunner, he messed up a 'night simulation' exercise over Irish Sea with F/Lt Dawson piloting the BB. As instructed Geoff put on dark goggles & couldn't see tug or drogue! Other problems amusingly described – but he passed! |
| | 6-8 | Article | Memories of an 18 Squadron Crew | Stephen Barker | Stephen, whose Dad was PoW, died of resultant TB in 1957 when SB was 2. SB has spent 18yrs finding his BB crew & their |

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| | | | | <p>stories. Very interesting, many descriptions in the words of the aircrew. Sq/Ldr John Tudge joined RAF 2 wks before war declared to fly Tiger Moths then Lysanders for Army Air Co-operation. W/O Doug Barker & W/O Cyril Penn joined once war declared & trained together @ OTU Upwood & chose John for their 'skipper'. John describes flying BB & Lysander crash. Posted to 18Sq @ RAF Oulton, near Blickling Hall. Cyril describes their life, and details one anti-shiping run over North Sea in V6525. Mentions P/O Watson, P/O Aires & Sgt Dean who 'vanished' in V6521. Then on to 'Operation Circus'. In letter to father Doug vividly describes raid on St Omer. Sgt Mounser in V6529 shot down. Describes raid on Chocques on 17/06/1941 with 24 a/c & escort. As pilot John recalls Hazebrooke raid when outside of 9 BBs, and Doug gives detailed WOp/AG view in letter, incl how John got damaged BB back to Horsham St Faith; it was DBR. By 06/07/1941 done 15 ops in 28 days & only survivors of 30 crews who graduated at OTU. Posted to 21Sq @ RAF Watton. On 10/07/1941 in V6398 to Portland Bill for fighter escort with John leading op over Cherbourg docks & Cyril Chief Navigator. Describes raid in own words & how hit, ditched in sea but got into dinghy & picked up by small German vessel. Describes how treated & journey to Dulagluft, Frankfurt. John was taken to army camp on Austrian border & Cyril & Doug to Bad Surlza, Stalag IXC. When liberated Cyril emigrated to Canada in 1951 & retired 1986. John lives in S England with wife & amazing memory.</p> <p>Pics: Cyril Penn, John Trudge & Doug Barker (Stephen's father) @ Blickling Hall, 1941; Doug Baker & crew @17 OTU, Upwood.</p> <p><i>GW: 16/06/1941, V6512 (not V6521), 18Sq FTR. Shot down by ship's flak off Hook of Holland. P/O I Watson (pilot), P/O E Aires (Obs) & Sgt T Dean KIA. On Runnymede. (Aires in R3666 when crashed 25/05/1941) 25/06/1941, V6259 (not V6529) FTR, shot down by flak in target area Circus No.23 to St Omer. Sgt Mounser (pilot), Sgt G Richards (Obs) & Sgt W Waite KIA. On Runnymede Memorial.</i></p> |
| | 8 | | To Those who Served at Massingham | <p>On 26/09/1998 AM Sir Ivor Broom will attend Dedication of RAF Roll of Honour @ St Andrew's Church. Any RAF members who served @ Massingham during WWII are invited. Please contact Sister Laurence Mary if wish to attend.</p> |
| | 8 | | CAA Safety Awards for 1998 | <p>Presented by MP Glenda Jackson (Min of Aviation) @ RAF Club, London. 3 special recommendations; 1st - Kevin Wright (Tiger Moth Trophy); Jack Wells (Vice-Chair Aircraft Operators & Pilots' Assn); John Romain (ARCo), both for piloting skills. Describes how John landed Westland Lysander safely after oil-leak sprayed cockpit windows, instrument panel & his face/legs so couldn't see except through small open side window.</p> |

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| | 9 | | Junior Member's Message | Rachel Rowsley | Rachel (age 10) joined Blen Soc when 6. Describes a typical visit to Duxford with family & grand-dad driving from Maldon or Gt Baddow. Helps set up flags then, with Betty George, tables with things to sell & food. Rachel & Air Cadets sell raffle tickets & she picks winners. Enjoys talking to ex-aircrew about their WWII experiences. Last year @ Duxford the Messerschmitt 'Black Six' crashed other side M11. Pilot John Allison upside-down 30mins before rescued. Grand-dad pays her membership for Xmas present. Grand-dad's uncle in 110Sq; his last mission from Manston; buried Isle of Romo, Denmark |
| | 9 | | Rachel's PS | | Suggests having junior pen-pals to exchange news about airshows, etc |
| | 9 | | Grand Flying Draw | | Lists 7 flights in Grand Draw, 1 st being in Concorde for 2 with champagne (sponsored by Derek Baden); hot-air balloon; Beech; helicopter; Storch; Harvard; Chipmunk (some with hands-on experience – but not with Concorde!). Tickets @ Flying Legends @ Duxford 04-05/07/1998. Well received @ Watton & Duxford in May |
| | 10 | | Bien Touche | | 10 maintenance problems submitted by USAF pilots & solutions by maintenance crew. Amusing! (sent in by Gordon Kingham) |
| | 10 | Review | Men Behind the Medals | Mike Henry | A/Cdr Graham Pitchfork's bk <i>'Men Behind the Medals'</i> gives stories of 21 aircrew, incl 5 who flew BBs. Lew Cody DFC, AFC, DFM: 40Sq Obs in Battles then BB MkIVs. Then pilot's course Upwood & to 139Sq & ME in 1942 with Hudsons & Dakotas with 216Sq. Dickie Gunning, DFC, DFM, 107Sq; Len Page, DFM, 211Sq; Nat Addison DFC, DFM, 23Sq; Gerry Osborne, DFM, 21Sq. Excellent reading for £25 |
| | 10 | Pic | Guess What? | | Pic from IWM of 12 RAF men holding up tail of BB. Why? Who? Maybe 110Sq @ RAF Wattisham preparing for Compass Swing. |
| | 11-12 | Article | Personal Impressions with a Blenheim Squadron in the Middle East (continued) | Ron Ledieu | After 3-4 months near El Alamein doing 'fighter' training Flight detached west to WWI aerodrome (El Daba) to follow German bombers back to base (in theory!). This 06/1940 & describes panic on base at fall of France. Will UK fall next? They had to get out of Egypt before interned but where safe? Australia? Next day returned to normal. Squadron together again. Italian's long-range flying boats in Med disrupting supplies. These based in 30Sq range @ Benghazi so ordered to 'ht hard'. Ron now commander 'B' flight but CO S/Ldr Shannon led flight. Describes the weapons they had & attack. 10/1940: rumours about Germans moving south & to Greece. 30Sq with BB, & others with Gladiators, sent to Greece. All Spitfire & Hurricanes needed for B of B. As No2 in Squadron Ron went to Greece in advance to sort out bases, etc. with Greek Air Force. Flown Piraeus 30/10/1940 in Sunderland, met by Embassy Attache, taken GHQ @ Grande Britannia Hotel, Athens; senior Germany army also there too, in civvies! Shown Elefsis where 30Sq to be based; Greek station Commander concerned about radio transmitters around base sending out intelligence. Many Greeks |

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| | | | | | sympathetic to Germany where many servicemen trained. Describes other ways Germans had into on RAF In Greece. Ron got sciatica & sent back to Egypt, end of his time with 30Sq & BBs |
| | 11 | | The Flying Parcel | From 'East Kent Mercury' | At 17 Marget Nower (now Hon Sec of Sandwich & Deal Branch of RAFA) joined WAAF as cook with Bomber Command & says 'Blenheims were literally tied up with string'. Mike Henry queries this & points out that Blenheim only RAF aircraft to serve in every wartime RAF Command. |

Issue 31: March 1998

| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
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| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Hugh George | Inevitably number of Full Members from ex-Blenheim Squadrons is falling, but lots of Associated members taking on work. Our activities will also change. Hope to see many at Flying Legends, Duxford. |
| Sgt John Pullen | 1 | Wanted | North Sea Attack on the <i>Scharnhorst</i> and <i>Gneisenau</i> | Doreen Hardy | Doreen lost fiancé, Sgt John Pullen, come to UK from W Australian for pilot training but KIA on his first op flight 12/02/1942 against shipping. Doreen visited his family in 1986 but last one died 1997. Any info welcome. <i>GW: 12/02/1942, T1922, 114Sq, FTR. Shot down N Sea off Kijkduin, Holland. P/O Robert Drysdale (pilot), Sgt Arthur Maynard (Obs) & Sgt J Pullen (WOp/AG) KIA. RD & AM buried Holland; JP no known grave & commemorated Runnymede.</i> |
| Sgt George Burtenshaw | 1 | Wanted | A Stab in the Dark? | Mr RD Hamilton, DFC | Mr H seeks info re Sgt George Burtenshaw, WOp/AG from Musselburgh, Scotland. Flew BBs & lost on ops in 1943. (Ed suggests could be ME or FE). Address given |
| 107 Squadron | | Wanted | No. 107 Squadron Gt Massingham/Malta | | In 1941-1942 Little Massingham Manor was Officer's Mess for crews based @ Great Massingham airfield. Is now Convent Retreat for 'Order of Filles de Jesus'. Sister Laurence Mary compiling Roll of Honour & Memorial Bk for Sq crews who lost lives while based @ Great Massingham. Problems getting info on 107Sq crews lost while on detachment in Malta 09/1941 to 01/1942. Requests memories of Malta ops & names of lost. Address given. <i>GW: lists about 25 BB's of 107Sq lost in off Malta between 30/08/1941 & 12/07/1942 & about 45 aircrew died. 107BBs were Z7641, Z7654, Z9603, Z7504, Z7755, Z9599, V5821, Z7638, Z7644, Z7618, Z9663, Z7511, Z9708, Z7704, V5961, Z7914, Z7775, Z7368, Z7800, Z7915, Z7848, Z9852, Z7760, Z7643 + 1 unknown serial no</i> |
| 145 Squadron | 2 | Wanted | 145 Squadron | Eric Young | Eric, Sec of 145 Assn, seeks a photo of 145Sq BB with decals 'SO' (while based Croydon late 1939 to 03/1940) for 145Sq's 80 th anniversary which Sq Assn to celebrate with Tangmere Aviation Museum @ Merston Hall. Also inscribed plaque & 145Sq history. Any pics to Eric, address given |
| F/O M Wallenstein | 2 | Wanted | 101 Squadron April 1941 - Help | Mr PG Wallenstein | Seeks info about father, F/O M Wallenstein, Obs with 101Sq West Raynham; flew ops 08/04/1941 (to Bremerhaven) & 11/04/1941 (to Brest) then posted 2 Group HQ. Son's |

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| | | | | | address given |
| | 2 | Wanted | Request for Information re 11 Squadron | Mr CHC Randall | Mr Randall seeks info about 11Sq movements from 1941 in Western Desert. While detached to SAAF he lost contact with XISq & hard to trace. Address given |
| | 2 | Wanted | Help! | Dr David Shlugman | David is researching 110Sq crew of R3773 which crashed nr Wattisham 30-31/08/1940. 1 of 6 BBs returning from raid Emden. Crew: P/O JFSP Price (pilot) & Sgt HA Tune (Obs) killed; Sgt A McDonald (WOp/AG) badly wounded but believed return to flying. Any info ref crew to David. Address given. <i>GW: as above but crashed Offton nr Ipswich</i> |
| | 2 | Wanted | More Help Please! | W Davies | Request about Kenneth Charles Baldwin, a Blenheim pilot in 1941/1942. Address given |
| | 2 | Wanted | Wanted by David Kester | David Kester | David requests WWII airmen's flying clothing, equipment, etc for personal collection. Address given |
| | 3 | | Correction – Issue No. 30 page 3. Charroux Communal Cemetery Fr 1663. Village & Commune 32. S of Poitiers. | | (30/03) P/O Colin Wright Handley (pilot), 42343, RAF, age 20 (son of John George & Annie Elizabeth of Ingrave, Essex; Sgt Patrick Denis Humphrey McGovern (Obs), 903042, RAFRV; LAC James Gilbert Broadbent Thomas (WOp/AG), 936495, RAFVR, age 26 (son of Frederick Ogden & Emma (nee Broadbent) & husband to Lilian Audrey Thomas, Norton Tower, Halifax). All killed 18/06/1940 in L9317 when crashed in France. Buried @ Charroux, Vienne. No 4 (Continental) Ferry Pilots Pool: L9317 was 1 of 7 to crash of 12 BBs dispatched from Tangmere on direct ferry flight to Malta via Marseille. Most crashed in severe storm centred on Vienne in Rhone valley. |
| | 3 | Wanted | Dutch Historian Theo Boiten | | Theo's 2 nd book, <i>'Bristol Blenheim. An overall development, combat and preservation history, 1933-1997'</i> is with publishers & due out 03/1998. 350 pages, 200 pic of which 180 publish for first time. Theo thanks BB vets & families. Requests photos for 3 rd bk on photographic history of Blenheim. Theo 1st bk was <i>'Blenheim Strike'</i> . Address given |
| | 3 | Data | 1997 Grand Flying Draw Winners | | Names, ticket numbers & addresses of 7 draw winners & 2 reserves |
| | 3 | Poem | WOp-AG Blenheim Bomber Mk IV | Anthony Richardson | About strangeness of being in BB turret at night instead of sat by fire with family. (see p4 below) |
| | 3 | | Sponsorship for the Blenheim Society | | Thanks to Andy Payne (The Producers Ltd) who running London Marathon to raise money for Blen Soc |
| | 4 | Pics | | | Pic: 1996 Draw winner Julian Humphries of Dorset in Harvard; Winners Theresa Carey & Brother David with Beech a/c |
| | 4 | | Pilot Shortage in 1940 | Sq/Ldr PJ Camp | (Eg. of training short-cuts) Has story of an anti-aircraft gunner being recruited as pilot by accident @ Lords Cricket Ground! In 1940 author (PJC) was Obs XVSq & just finished 26 BB sorties. Summoned to see W/Cdr 'Paddy' Bandon @ Group HQ, Huntingdon with 10 others Obs from 2 Grp Sqdns. Told to train as pilots directly onto BBs – no EFT, no FTS, no ATS just pick a crew, to OTU then ops! Did 2hrs dual on BB then course cancelled. Month later we met again on pilot's course @ ETS, Woodley, Reading |
| | 4 | | Three Airborne | Jack | Jack writing bk about himself & 2 uncles. |

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| | | | Geordies | Caslaw | Uncle Bob (Cert No 35 in 1910 – same wk as Tom Sopwith got his). Bob designed/built Mersey Monoplane but crashed/died 1912. Uncle Ernest in RFC in WWI then RAF. Crashed Sopwith Snipe but lived to be 80. Jack saw 'Linceock' flown by Alan Cobham's Circus & joined RAF with DH82s @ Sywell (1938), then Gladiators & BBs with 25Sq. Joined Army & from 1940 flew military gliders! |
| | 4 | Poem | Full Cry | Anthony Richardson | Compares Blenheim going on raid to pack of hounds hunting. Poems by late F/Lt Anthony Richardson (former Adj 107Sq). From his bk ' <i>Because of These – verses of the RAF</i> ' |
| | 5 | Report | Luftwaffe Fighter Pilots' Association. Sir Ivor tells of his invitation to their reunion | Sir Ivor Broom | Held early 1997 @ Potsdam, Berlon, Ivor describes w/e Luftwaffe FPA reunion. 450 guests included ex-members of French, Russian, Polish, American, Dutch, Belgian & Czechoslovakian Air Forces. Saturday: sight seeing tours incl Berlin Rathaus, Luftwaffe Museum (@ former RAF Gatow) where had remembrance service Ivor laid wreath on behalf of RAF. Formal reunion meal in pm. Moving event; <i>'there is a bond which joins aviators of all nationalities & which transcends national boundaries'</i> |
| | 5 | Wanted | Strange Blenheim at Croydon | Robert Brown | Info about BB which flew from Croyden @ end 1940. Robert a retired F/Sgt (served 1938-1968) & moved from RAF Kenley to Croydon Airport (guarded by Honourable Artillery Company!). Flew BBs while awaiting Hurricanes. BB wheeled out of Redwing aircraft factory hangar with metal ring at undercarriage level from nose to wing-tips to near tail wheel. Told was a 'Chance Light' fitted to bomb bay & purpose to 'sweep' for magnetic mines & ring was a 'de-gaussing ring'. Then Robert transferred to Tangmere for B of B. Was device successful? Ed adds that Wellingtons also fitted with these. |
| | 5 | | Ted of All Trades | Ted Cox | Ted read 'From Sky over Grantham' (30/02); he also flew in L1169 (on 05 & 07/06/1943. It was OK but lot of BB @ AFU weren't! Ted enlisted as Obs @ 23 E&RTS in 05/1939 flying Ansons, Harts & Audaxes. 12/1939 @ No. 5 ITW, Hastings where volunteered as gunner on Defiants. Course @ B&GS, West Freugh. Posted 15Sq @ RAF Wyton 28/05/1940 & was WOp on Wellingtons until 03/1941. Then Instructor @ various OTUs until started pilot training 05/1942 @ 22 EFTS, Cambridge. Then, via Cranwell, Grantham & Cranfield to 29Sq @ Ford & on night-fighters & intruders for rest of WWII. After war in Auxiliary Air Force as a CGI Controller! |
| | 6-7 | Report | Do you have to be John to work on a Blenheim? | Steve Auty | Aged 10, Steve attended SSAFA Air Display @ RAF Church Fenton & interest in aviation started; now esp interest in photographing WWII a/c. After G-MkIV (Blen Soc BB) crashed @ Denham, 1987 Steve joined Soc. He entered a competition for photo sortie with the BB & was 1 of 4 winners. With British Aerial Museum's Beech 18 Expeditor as 'platform' date fixed was 27/07/1997. At Duxford met Graham Warner, John Romain, John Smith ('Smudge') & John Webb (Beech pilot). John Dibbs not there so Smudge gave briefing. Photos taken through |

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| | | | | | removed Beech window. Blenheim got <u>really</u> close to Beech! Landed & more pic. Then Graham Warner took 4 photographers to Wyton for more pics of landed BB; some climbed on wing. Steve asks how crew did this on wet winter nights with all their kit? Pics by Steve Auty: Three different angles of Blenheim in flight taken from Beech. |
| | 8 | Article | Intruder Operations on Crete | G/Cpt W Maydwell | In 06/1942 WM was 3 rd of 6 14Sq BB night flying from LG116 (nr Mersa Matruh) @ ½ hrly intervals to 'harass' German airfield @ Heraklion, Crete. Describes flight: dropped 250lb x2 bombs on hangar & parked aircraft. Visibility bad, WOp/AG got QDM on LG116 but could hardly see goose neck flares when there. Trip was 4hr 40mins. After 5 night of these attacks on German airfield, German's attacked LG116 with ME110 (described). Describes vividly a 2 nd trip in full moon, Mount Ida, dropping the bombs – and 12 empty beer bottles to confuse Germans! 14Sq did 14 night Intruder ops on Crete. Gives a feel for what it was like to be there. |
| | 8 | Letter | The Bolingbroke Restoration in Canada | Mr HK Patterson | Writing from Hamilton, Ontario, HKP report on progress of 'Boly'; awaiting steel to replace rusty parts; using Pratt & Whitney, last to manufacturers these engine parts. |
| | 9-10 | Article | Personal Impressions with a Blenheim Squadron in the Middle East | Ron Ledieu | 1939 posted from 70Sq (with Vickers Valencias) to 30Sq as Adjutant at request of Sq/Ldr Ulic Shannon (NZ), CO 30Sq. Both Sqds (& 55Sq) @ Habbaniyah. Flew BBs often lent by F/Lt Frank Marlow ('A' flight Commander). At outbreak of war put on war footing & transfer to Ismailia (Suez Canal Zone). Described how formation flying uses more fuel & almost ran out. 'Phoney War' period: describes eventual trip to Beirut, via Lydda airport in Palestine (& French Air Force Ambulance!) with Frankie Marlow. Beirut airport undeveloped; ½ civilian & ½ French AF. Describes stay @ St George Hotel. Moved to WWI Army camp west Alexandria (near El Alamein) 05/1940; two temp building (Officers & Sgts Mess & NAAFI) but lived in tents & dug slit trenches. Mkl BBs of 30Sq fitted 4 Browning gun in nacelle under belly & now called 'Long Range Fighters' (but crews only bomber trained!) to defend Alexandria. Sq with Gladiators based nearby. In 1989 Ron contacted 30Sq RAFA; it's President AVM David Dick sent letter, dated 14/04/1989, with quote from Form 540 (Combat Report) for 13/07/1940 that K7177, pilot F/O RG Ledieu & 2 other BBs intercepted Fleet on orders from 252 Wing. Long quote from report. One BB crashed in sea: AVM Dicks was told by Johnny Vellacott that this was F/O Swann (pilot) & Sgt Young (WOp/AG). Ron has met Vellacott since @ 30Sq reunions @ Lyneham. Author says this account doesn't tally with his memory, and details how he remembers the crash into sea. <i>GW: 13/07/1940: 30Sq K7181 FTR. Shot down by return fire attacking SM 79s. P/O D Lea & Sgt C Burt KIA on El Alamein Memorial.</i> <i>28/07/1940: 30Sq K7178 FTR from</i> |

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| | | | | | escorting 113Sq recce sortie to Libya. Shot by CR42s. F/Lt I Swann (pilot), P/O H Fisher (Obs) & Sgt J Young (WOp/AG) buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. GW's records differ from what Ron told. |
| | 11-12 | Article | Random Recollections 114 Squadron (final episode) | Reg Stride | 30/05/1940 114Sq @ Wattisham & then to Horsham-St-Faith 10/06/1940 with new BBs & 2 mnths training programme described. Op flights 11/07/1940 attacking invasion barges Netherland & France. 10/08/1940 114Sq to Oulton, billeted Bickling Hall. Reg President of Sgts' Mess. Sgt Simmons & team 'performed miracles' with repairs; describes work of ancillary trade 'volunteers'. No space to detail ops 07/1940 – 10/1941, but describes some problems faced. Describes W/Cdr Wrights briefings. Often had to fly unescorted & in tight formation. Details how this made them easy targets @ 6,000 ft (flak & German fighters) & inadequacy of BB's single 'K' gun. To 'take on' Luftwaffe in France 2 Group & Fighter Command liaised for the 'Circus'. Few BBs acted as 'bait' for strong force of Fighters. Reg @ Hornchurch when 6 BBs escorted by 72 Fighters attack on St Inglevert in Pas de Calais area on 10/01/1941. Later Group 2 used 'singleton' flights with BB's flying in > 7/10 cloud cover in day or 'intruder' surprise low-level attacks on airfields at night. Spring 1941 W/Cdr Wright awarded DFC & replace by W/Cdr Elsmie. From 02/03/1941 – 18/07/1941 114Sq in Coastal Command @ Thornaby & Leuchars; W/Cdr FTR from anti-shiping raid. 19/07/1941 114Sq to West Raynham. On 12/08/1941 54 BBs (incl 114Sq) carried out low-level, unescorted day-light attack on Cologne power station. 20% BBs lost; many seriously damaged. Reg left 114Sq 10/1941 & Sq moved to Blida on 15/11/1941. |
| | 11 | Obit | We Still See their Faces and Hear their Voices – to Absent Friends | | Recent deaths of Society Members: Ken Swann died 20/12/1997 (after long fight with cancer); Harry Mullins died suddenly 12/1997; Jack Bennett's nephew died from heart attack; Les Spong, after several year confined to wheelchair; W/O KE York, died suddenly 09/1997; J Neale, died 24/08/1997; Zimbabwe member also died 09/1997; S/Ldr NA Savill (235Sq, crash 12/05/1940 in L9189); Jim Brooker, died 30/01/1998 (40Sq, ill health due to PoW) on Committee with wife Joyce; wife of ACM Sir Peter Le Cheminant from Guernsey. Condolences to all families. |
| | 12 | | When not to Speak ... | Mike Henry | Editor recounts 2 incidents: 1 involving 101Sq & his Fighter Commander, Ronnie Graham, & request for leave; 2 about Station Commander G/Cpt Paddy Bandon (Earl of Bandon), a Dodge car & a level crossing. |
| | 12 | | Hero Worship Overdone! | Mike Henry | Mike & Geoff Parnell (former editor 'The Turret') muse of use of word 'Hero' |

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| Topic | Page | Type | Title | Author | Notes & Search Words |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|--|---------------|---|
| | 1 | Report | President's Message | Ivor Broom | Soc thrives; good turnout @ April lunch & AGM in Hendon & at Duxford with 'Jane'. Blenheim no longer 'forgotten bomber' thanks to Soc & Graham Warner who received MBE in 1997 Birthday Honours List |
| | 1 | Report | Chairman's Message | Hugh George | Start of 2 nd decade of Blen Soc & over 1,000 members. Future looks bright. Happy Xmas! |
| | 1 | Data | Society Notes | | Len Fearnley's new address given; contacts welcome. |
| | 1 | Wanted | Help! | | Stirling EF 128 GI-D, 622Sq, crashed on 18/11/1943 @ Lachalade (France) whose residents wish to locate sole survivor, Sgt R Harper. Also request address 622Sq Assn (ex-Mildenhall) |
| | 2 | Wanted | Wanted by David Kester | | For own collection David would like WWII airmen's flying clothing & equipment. |
| | 2 | | Subs Reminder | | About 100 members still to pay subs. Subs esp needed as plan extra 4 pages to Journal in 1998 @ extra cost of £555. |
| | 2 | | From the Sky Over Grantham | L Monument | In 1942/43 LM was FME @ No 12 PAFU, Grantham, servicing BBs MkI, MkVI & MkV used for pilot training. Remembers working on L1169's engines (built 1938) esp. It's first flight after servicing resulted in a propeller & reduction gear falling off & landing in Grantham street when engine seized up. Pilot landed on one engine. I was then given Mk V to work on, but L1169 later crashed on take off & pupil pilot killed. <i>GW: 05/10/1943 L1169 MkI, flaps retracted prematurely after take-off @ Spittlegate, flew into ground, destroyed by fire. Sgt L Williams (solo pilot) injured</i> |
| Sgt Tom W Hartley (Obs) 581153 | 2 | Wanted | Information Please! | JWM Hartley | Sgt TW Hartley (Obs) on flight of 8 BBs from Lossiemouth to Stavanger 08-09/07/1940. Only one returned & crash landed @ Wick. Tom joined RAF 25/06/1939. Any info to JWM Hartley – address given <i>GW: 09/07/1940, L8872, 21Sq, FTR Lossiemouth from Stavanger, brought down into sea; crew F/Lt J Murray (pilot, NZ), Sgt W Hartley (Obs), Sgt G Duck (WOp/AG) KIA & commemorated Runnymede.</i> |
| | 2 | | Thank You | | Thanks from Mr Lith for help with research |
| | 2 | | Duxford – October Show | Editor | Cold cross wind hampered flying. ME 109 has small prang; Blenheim coped well! |
| | 2 | Review | Book Review Bomber Operations by 2 Group | | 'The Reich Intruders' by Martin W Bowman covers RAF medium bomber raids over Europe in WWII. Lots of first-hand accounts by aircrew of BB, Boston, Mitchell & Mosquito ops. F/Lt Jim Moore gave info about Blenheim ops. Lot covered, incl 107Sq, but not everything. Ed adds that even Michael Bowyer's '2 Group RAF – A Complete History' has gaps. |
| | 3 | Pic | Our Chairman Presents Plaque | | Pic of Hugh George presenting Blen Soc plaque to Chair of Southgate branch RBL on 27/07/1997. Thanks to Les Gibbs, Mike Ford & Kevin Rowley for organising. |
| | 3 | Wanted | Crew of Blenheim L9317 | Michael Moore | MM (ex-Met police detective) from Charroux, nr Poitiers (France) asks for info about 3 RAF men buried there. P/O Colin Wright, 42343, 18/06/1940 (age 20); Sgt Patrick Denis Humphry McGovern, 903042, |

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|-----------------------|-----|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 18/06/1940 (gunner, age 26); LAC James Gilbert Broadbent, 36495, RAFVR. Neighbour has propeller from crashed a/c, thought to be in transit when crashed (see corrections 31/03) |
| | 3 | Wanted | 'Jane' at Duxford September 9 | | At recent luncheon @ Officers Mess, Duxford, Jack Bennett presented 'Jane' with flowers. Has anyone a photo of this? |
| | 3-4 | Report | The Gathering of the Clan Blenheim | Mike Henry | 70 Society Members, incl (President) Sir Ivor Broom & Lady Broom, Chair & Sec Hugh & Betty George, Graham Warner (now with MBE!) & John Romain, attended luncheon @ Officers Mess, Duxford on 09/09/1997. Special guests Mrs Leighton-Porter (aka 'Jane' of strip-cartoon <i>Daily Mirror</i> fame) & Andrew Pierce (Mem No. 1,000). After meal to see BB, chat with team (Smudge, Colin, etc) with steps providing to view inside BB. Stan Dixon & Les Foster met for 1 st time since 1941 when trained together as Sgt Obs & posted 254Sq Coastal Command; both flew in QY-C ('our' Blenheim) on ops & attained rank Sq/Ldr. Stan (now 77) left RAF 1975 & Les (80) in 1945. Jeanne Gibbs thanked for contacting 'Jane'. Pics: 'Jane' up ladder with Ivor Broom by QY-C; Les Foster, Stan Dixon & Mike Henry. |
| | 4-5 | Report | Trip to Vraux 1997 | Betty George | 28 met at Dover, smooth channel crossing & good time to hotel in Reims. Sat: to Red House where 'Sailor' Dauncey & Hugh George laid flowers, then trip round vineyards & to M Barnaut's cellars in Commune of Bouzey. Some to Paris to sail Seine, visit Eiffel Tower & view Opera. Sun (Bastille Day): barbeque in Museum courtyard. Presented Museum with £382 & Hugh George made speech in French. Then Bastille Day dinner; returned home Tues via Vimy Ridge. Ron Cruttenden visited wartime digs @ farm & given home-made ashtray hidden in barn for >50yrs (courtesy McConochies). Pics: Hugh George (XVSq) & Sailor Dauncey (114Sq) @ Vraux Memorial 12/07/1997; Whole group outside 'Red House'; |
| Evacuation from Vraux | 5-6 | Article | Random Recollections – 114 Squadron | Reg Stride (F/Sgt 114 Squadron) | 05/1940: All 114Sq BBs @ Vraux destroyed by Kruger's Dorniers when W/Cdr Wright arrived. By 12/05/1940 Army Engineers had repaired runway & removed unexploded & delayed action bombs & 2 BBs arrived. One fitted with backward firing gun under Obs position (Obs lay on floor & looked through prisms to use it!). Wing HQ (in 'Maison Rouge') communicated via single land-line & WWI Army field telephone, which rarely worked, so used despatch riders on motorcycle. 16/05/1940 recce flight over Sedan area showed German units crossed River Meuse & had motorcycles patrols in Rethel area, 20mls NE Reims. Everything @ base useful to enemy destroyed. CO had arranged 10 lorries to transport 370 men from Vraux to west coast France, each equipped with rations, spares, etc + 15CWT water Bowser & stocked NAAFI wagon. Sq sub-divided into flight of 35-40 men with senior NCO in charge with 6 instructions: tell hosts retreating to another airfield; parade through village; march to vehicle |

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| | | | | | embarkation S of village; convoy discipline, incl instruction on firing at any German a/c; keep camouflage on vehicles; if break down, repair truck & continue alone to Nantes. Convoy left 0400 on 18/05/1940 in 'loose formation' via minor roads for 200mls to Orleans (via Sezanne & Sens) to camp in field. Next day drove via Tous & Angers along Loire to Nantes, to find no seaborne transport available & no fuel left in trucks! W/Cdr acquired fuel (? in exchange for NAAFI wagon) & drove 200mls to outskirts Cherbourg, abandoned vehicles, marched to dock area & herded onto small boats & ships heading for Southampton! |
| | 6 | Obit | To Absent Friends | | Sq/Ldr R Trew DFC, ex-21Sq, died 02/09/1997. Condolences to family |
| | 7 | | Withdrawal from Society | | Informed by Loudon Davidson's wife that he's developed Alzheimers & is withdrawing his membership. Kindest wishes |
| | 7-8 | Article | The Ghost of Blickling Hall Final episode | Mysterious 'Skull' Thompson | Describes how woman's footsteps were heard repeatedly along a path but suddenly stopped & no response when challenged by guard. Sceptics heard them too, but couldn't explain. This well-written trivia has serious background of Group 2 daylight 'circus' ops of 1941 with BB's used to bait Luftwaffe & returning badly damaged; the despair of young wives lodging locally; replacement crews arriving & soon having to be replaced themselves, wartime shortages, blackouts & how everyone knew the moon's phases, etc. Finally comes the solution to the 'ghost' mystery. <i>Preface explains that article wrongly accredited to Tommy Thompson by Beryl Griffiths in exhibition 'The RAF at Blickling Hall and Oulton'. Real author 'Skull' Thompson, stationed there 1940.</i> |
| | 8 | Report | Stop Press Cenotaph 9 th November | | Blen Soc was represented & on Programme @ Remembrance Service for 1 st time, with Fred Atton & Mrs Mortlake laying wreaths. |
| | 8 | | The Blickling Ghost – A Mother's Story | Stephen Barker | Re 29/08. SB's father PoW in Germany & fellow 'kriegy/kriegie' (abbreviated German for PoW) told that one night a loud scream heard @ Blickling Hall; an injured man found outside building said ghost of a woman dropped him out the window! SB's Dad & others found huge grey stone pyramid in Hall's ground which filled them with terror as nearer it. Was lady-in-grey buried here? Story told to 8-yr old SB by Mum 35yrs ago. |
| | 8 | | Tailpiece | Mike Henry | On 01/07/1941 MH posted 18Sq @ Oulton, billeted Blickling Hall for 9 days; no sign of ghosts. Frequented Buckinghamshire Arms. |

Other abbreviations (in no particular order at present)

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| CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission | MRAF Marshal of the Royal Air Force | RAF Royal Air Force |
| a/c Aircraft | ACM Air Chief Marshal | RAFVR RAF Voluntary Reserves |
| POW Prisoner of War | AM Air Marshal | RCAF Royal Canadian Air Force |
| LG Landing Ground | AVM Air Vice Marshal | SAAF South African Air Force |
| SWO Station (or Senior) Warrant Officer | A/Cdr Air Commodore | RHAF Royal Hellenic Air Force |
| AOC Air Officer Commanding | DFM Distinguished Flying Medal | RAFA RAF Association |
| FIS | DFC Distinguished Flying Cross | ARC Aircraft Restoration Co. |
| BC Bomber Command | DSO Distinguished Service Order | RSU Repair & Service Unit |
| MT Military Transport | GC George Cross | MU Maintenance Unit |
| IRCC International Red Cross Committee | AFC Air Force Cross | RNZAF Royal New Zealand Air Force |
| KD Khaki Drill | VC Victoria Cross | MEAF Middle East Air Force |
| FG (American) Flight Group | TD | RAAF Royal Auxiliary Air Force |
| U/T Under Training | RDF Radio Direction Finding | RBL Royal British Legion |
| FTR Failed to Return | AGA Air Gunners Association | RFC Royal Flying Corps |

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| CFS Central Flying School | ACA Aircrew Association | BAC Bristol Aero Collection, Kemble |
| ME Middle East | CG Centre of Gravity | RAE Royal Aircraft Establishment (Farnborough) |
| FE Far East | IAS (58/5) | FAA Fleet Air Arm |
| DBR Damaged Beyond Repair | ADC (50/9) | FAAS Fleet Air Arm Society |
| IFF Identification Friend or Foe | SOE Special Operations Executive | AHQ Air Headquarters |
| FTS Flying Training School | ASR Air/sea Rescue | TNA The National Archives, Kew |
| EFTS Elementary Flying Training School | NWF North West Frontier (of India, now Pakistan) | PRO Public Records Office (now TNA) |
| AASF Advanced Air Striking Force, France 1939/40 | SEAC South East Asia Command (1942/3) | MAO Meteorological Air Observer |
| ADU Aircraft Delivery Unit | AAIB Air Accidents Investigation Branch | WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force |
| ASV Air to Surface Vessel (radar) | KIA Killed in Action | ATC Air Training Corps |
| AI Airborne Interception | MIA Missing in Action | TAF Tactical Air Force |
| CAA Civil Aviation Authority | F/Eng Flight Engineer | BAFO British Air Forces of Occupation |
| CPF Coastal Patrol Flight (Coastal Command subunit) | VOR VHF Omni-directional Radio Range | AASF Advanced Air Strike Force |
| ITW Initial Training Wing | VR Voluntary Reserves | KBE Order of the British Empire |
| B&GS Bomber & Gunnery School | CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission | CVO Commander Royal Victorian Order |
| IoM Isle of Man | FME Flight Mechanic Engines | ATC Air Training Corps |
| MERC | FIIE or F2E Fitter II (Engines) | SOC Struck Off Charge |
| VGO Vickers Gas Operated (gun) | CFI Chief Flying Instructor | QDM Magnetic Bearing to a DF station (DF = Direction Finding) |
| HMIS His Majesty's Indian Ship | EFT Elementary Flying Training | |
| AOS Air Observers School | ATS | |
| HQME Head-quarters Middle East | AFU Advanced Flying Unit | |
| CTO Chief Technical Officer | E&RTS/E&RFTS Elementary & Reserve (Flying) Training School | |
| OCU Operational Conversion Unit | ITW Initial Training Wing | |
| B of B Battle of Britain | B&GS Bombing & Gunner School | |